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THE INDEPENDENT

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TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 1998

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IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW



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the year Japan
went west

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enough to
make you ill

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where's the
Sport in that?

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Fury over 'greedy bosses' attack

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
AND COLIN BROWN

CABINET MINISTERS were furious with the TUC president, John Edmonds, last night after he bluntly told the Government to take action against the "greedy bastards" in Britain's boardrooms instead of calling for pay restraint from Britain's 5 million public-sector workers.

In a head-on collision over the Government's economic strategy, Mr Edmonds called for interest rates to be cut, accused top executives of indulging in the "politics of the pig trough", denounced the "bloated rodents" who held top posts at the privatised water companies and called for tax rises for everyone earning more than £50,000 a year.

The Prime Minister and a string of cabinet ministers were due to arrive at the TUC conference in Blackpool today to smooth over the row, but ministers were said last night to be "spitting blood" over Mr Edmonds' outburst and claims that 300,000 more jobs were at risk.

"Rather than telling us how to run the country you would have thought the TUC would want to address the fact that their own membership is at an all-time low," said a cabinet source.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, who is flying to Japan today for a crisis meeting over the turmoil in world markets, was said to be "very angry". But Mr Brown made clear before leaving that there would be no change of strategy or a return to the "boom and bust" of the Tory years. "We are pursuing the right course of action for the British economy," he said.



John Edmonds, TUC president, heartily opened the Blackpool conference yesterday, with general secretary John Monks behind him, and Tony Dubbins

John Voos

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, traditionally a TUC favourite, also delivered a tough message to the conference that the Government had to keep to its strategy. He told

TUC delegates yesterday that union officials should stop talking Britain into a recession. In particular, he took issue with the comments of Ken Jackson, general secretary of the

Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, who said the economy was "within hours" of diving into recession.

Mr Prescott also responded to Mr Edmonds' onslaught by

insisting that he had not forgotten his working-class roots. But Mr Edmonds had rapturous support for his attack on Mr Brown's economic strategy, including a claim that increases

in taxation were far better for damping down demand than keeping interest rates high at the expense of British industry.

To a roar of approval from the 800 delegates, Mr Edmonds

reserved some of his strongest invective for Stephen Byers, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who has led calls for wage rises to be kept to a minimum. "My advice to Stephen Byers is

not to blame the workers, but to tell the truth about what goes on in the boardroom," Mr Edmonds said. "A company director who takes a pay rise of £50,000 when the rest of the workforce is getting a few hundred is not part of some general trend. He is a greedy bastard."

The Prime Minister will meet TUC leaders tonight for a private dinner at their Blackpool conference to reassure them that the Government recognises it must do more to tackle unemployment.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, will today announce a multimillion-pound regional strategy to cope with factory closures, such as the shutdown of the Fujitsu semi-conductor plant in Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency. The jobs will be offered retraining, reskilling and higher education courses. On Thursday, Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will announce the establishment of "flying squads" to tackle areas in crisis after closures.

Mr Blair is expected to use a speech in his constituency tomorrow to announce the provision of grants enabling job-seekers to travel to areas where vacancies exist, echoing the "get on your bike" message from the 1980s by Lord Tebbit, the former Conservative Party chairman.

Mr Edmonds was accused of resorting to the "language of the saloon bar" by Simon Sperling, chief executive of the London Chamber of Commerce, who said company directors had generated economic growth, while union leaders had presided over a steep decline in their membership.

'Lyn' king' finds solace in Big Apple

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

WHEN THE GOING gets tough, you turn to your friends - and so it was yesterday for Bill Clinton.

His presidency on the brink, Mr Clinton boarded the most visible symbol of the power of his office, Air Force One, and fled the scandal-steeped hot-house of Washington for a day in the Big Apple.

No place delivers distraction like New York City, as the President found - in his seat at a gala performance of Disney's "The Lion King", amid fat-cat Democratic donors during dinner at the Supper Club before curtain-up, even before an audience in the morning at the Council of Foreign Relations.

Never mind that the ghost of Monica still stalked him back home: this was New York, the city and the state that extricated him from Gennifer Flowers and his didn't inhale, dope-smoking flap with a big win in the presidential primaries back in 1992.

And the view from his limo seemed good. "Save the presidency, jail Kenneth Starr" proclaimed one banner as he arrived for his foreign policy speech.

For the White House, the day was a perfect projection of a pres-

ident going about business as usual. The "show", whether it is from Broadway or Pennsylvania Avenue, must "go on".

Later this week, there will be trips by the President to two cities, both likely to extend him

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a consoling embrace, Boston, with its crowds of Irish-Americans, and Los Angeles, home to Clinton-friendly Hollywood.

True, a few voices spoil the

welcome. St Patrick's Cathedral, just a block from his Waldorf Hotel base, was not on his schedule. Cardinal John O'Connor had asked on Sunday which "decent-minded human being could be anything but repelled by the behaviour attributed to the President?"

And on the eve of today's gubernatorial and congressional primary elections in New York, Geraldine Ferraro, the former vice-presidential candidate, eschewed the opportunity to share in Disney's Broadway magic with the head of her party. Then there was the New York Post, Rupert Murdoch's Republican-friendly tabloid, gleefully dubbing the President the "Lyn' King".

But the stars rallied in force. The actor Kevin Spacey showed up for dinner and theatre, and so did the supermodel Naomi Campbell. Fears that some of the squeamish would skip the evening out did not materialise.

"Sex is sex. It happens, and it's been happening for a million years," said John Catsimatidis, a supermarket tycoon, explaining his decision to attend. "I don't know anyone who's committed adultery who hasn't lied about it."

Dobson delays Viagra on NHS

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

THOUSANDS OF impotence sufferers face a delay of up to a month before they know whether they can obtain the controversial drug Viagra on the NHS.

The drug is to be given its European licence today by officials in Brussels. Yesterday's decision by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, to impose a temporary ban on its use on the NHS will mean a bonanza for private clinics and the black market, where the little blue pills have been available for months at up to £50 each.

Mr Dobson said expectations of the drug were so high that it could seriously drain NHS funds. "Other patients could be denied the treatment they need. I cannot allow this to happen. The potential availability of this drug raises issues about the priority which should be given to the treatment of impotence on the NHS."

Doctors estimated that the drug could cost the NHS more than £1bn, but that was if every one of the 2.5 million impotent men in the UK came forward for treatment and wanted sex four times a week. A more conservative estimate by the manufacturer, Pfizer, based on 30 per cent of affected men seeking

treatment and wanting sex once a week, suggested that the cost might reach £50m a year after five years - still four times the existing spending on treatments for impotence.

Mr Dobson said "definitive guidance" would be issued in the next few weeks, but in the meantime doctors should not prescribe Viagra save in "exceptional circumstances".

Ministers are determined to squash any perception of Viagra as a recreational drug. Alan Milburn, the health minister, has already indicated that prescribing will be restricted to hospital specialists only, but



specific advice is still awaited from the Standing Medical Advisory Committee.

Ministers are hoping that, after the expected surge of interest in the drug once it is licensed, demand will subside. In the US, where Viagra was launched last March, demand soared for the first three months, but fell suddenly as American men realised they did not want as much sex as they thought.

A spokesman for Pfizer said the natural effects of ageing and embarrassment over seeking help conspired to curb demand. "Let's face it, a lot of men are no longer interested in sex when they get older. It's a fact," he said. Derek Machin, secretary of the British Urological Association and a consultant urologist in Liverpool, said the temporary ban would put GPs in an untenable position.

"People who have had their expectations raised are going to go to their doctors to be told they can't get it," he said. "We have known for two years that this drug was coming and the day before it is licensed the Government says it hasn't had time to sort it out. I am not impressed."

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(BUT NOT
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Hype, hope and hysteria: welcome to the pill that's made the world quiver

BY KATHY MARKS

IF YOUR erection lasts for more than four hours, consult a doctor immediately. And stop sniggering at the back of the class, Tompkinson-Minor.

Viagra is a serious business. It has brought hope to thousands of men who suffer from erectile dysfunction. The impotence pill has also been responsible for a plague of bad puns, and the worst epidemic of schoolboy humour since medical records began.

How many times have we read about shares in Pfizer, the company that makes the wonder drug, rising as spectacularly as the afflicted organ? Or about "hardened" criminals peddling counterfeit versions on the black market?

It is not only headline writers who have been snoring with laughter since Viagra burst on to the scene. There was the airline pilot who, banned by Air New Zealand from taking it lest it impair his flying ability, observed: "Maybe they're worried we'll get too much lift when we take off."

Viagra has every ingredient that one could wish for in a news story. Sex, of course, lashings of it, together with the salacious details justified by the important medical angle.

Politics, too; earlier this month it was reported that election candidates in Taiwan were bribing rural voters with bottles of the diamond-shaped tablets.

And gender wars: disgruntled women demanded to know why female sexual dysfunction was not receiving the same degree of scientific scrutiny. It was not long before rumours spread that the drug worked for women too. One guinea pig, Annie Williams, told a tabloid newspaper: "Once Viagra kicks in, your only interest is pleasure. Having an orgasm, or three, is easy."

Not to be outdone, rival companies designed drugs specifically for the girls, including the evocatively named Erogenex.

Then came Viagra wars: as the hype and hysteria grew, there was a dash to claim credit for inventing the drug. Pfizer said it was a team effort, but one British scientist, Dr Nicholas Terrett, begged to differ, pointing out that his name was on two patents.

Talking of inventions, when Bristol consultant urologist Clive Gingell conducted the first pilot study of the chemical compound used in Viagra, he used a device called a Rigiscan



A shop in Phoenix, Arizona, offering holiday gift ideas. Will the remarkable popularity of Viagra make similar scenes familiar in Britain, too?

Mark Henle/AP

to measure the girth of penises of volunteers and their degree of rigidity in response to the drug. "The results were remarkable," he said. "You could see an increase in the quality and duration of erections."

Finally, every good story needs the added spice of danger, and in that respect Viagra did not disappoint. After the initial euphoria came the first reports of side-effects such as blurred vision: a relatively minor problem, patients may have thought, a small sacrifice in the pursuit of pleasure.

Then came the warnings about the potentially dire effect of unaccustomed exertion on

men with weak hearts. And inevitably, the lengthening list of fatalities: 69 in four months, as one newspaper pointed out; another article asked: "Did he die with a smile on his face?"

Joking aside, what man could suppress a shiver at the fate that befell a Dutch tourist who decided to experiment with Viagra while on holiday in Spain? The 50-year-old, according to reports, was in a state of agonising tumescence for 36 hours. His plight was eased by doctors at an Alicante casualty unit, who treated him with a lotion normally used to shrink nasal tissue.

Pity, too, the hapless Harley

Street doctor who tried the drug out on himself before prescribing it. "First of all, I went bright red and my eyes began to bulge out of my head," said Dr Richard Petty, medical director of the Wellman Clinic. "Then my neck started to swell around my collar. My partner started laughing like a drain as soon as she saw me. I had the most whopping hangover, which lasted for hours, although the pill did have the desired effect."

Some elderly patients have turned violent after taking Viagra. An 89-year-old Florida man attacked a woman with a crowbar when she spurned his

advances. In Argentina, pensioners have turned down an offer of free Viagra from the state, accusing the authorities of "trying to kill us off".

It has not all been bad news. At the Moonlight Bunnymanch brothel in Nevada, business is

said to be booming as older men patronise the establishment again. In Vienna, impotent theatre lovers can buy half-price tickets for the world's first play about the drug: *Viagra Makes It Possible 99 Times a Day*. Now spare a thought for the

French fertility expert who claims his career is under threat because patients no longer take him seriously. According to Dr Ronald Virag: "People think I am the inventor of the drug. I am frequently called Dr Viagra."

VIAGRA VIGNETTES



A slow and rhythmic creaking
From ancient marriage beds
An alms-house warden
Hearing, downs his cup
A wife turns off a wireless
Bought grey decades ago
Suggesting they go up

The plumping-up of pillows
A naughty nightie found
A frisson of relief
And recognition
A resurrected chimney
From lost industrial ground
Awaits her demolition

Relaxing at the golf links
A doctor says it's good
But curses
His prescription writer's
cramp
Then, handicap forgotten
Selects himself a wood
As Eros pitches camp

In satiated small hours
The beast with two bad backs
Lies chafed in petit mort
And de-tumescence
As vacuum pumps lie dusty
In dressing table drawers
And gather obsolescence

Then shaky-legged, a nation
Goes trembling off to work
Salacious sunlight
Bakes the bedroom floor
And on the tell-tale clothes lines
The sheets and duvets jerk
Like so much semaphore.

MARTIN NEWELL

AND THE MEN WHO USE AND RECOMMEND IT



BOB DOLE
The American presidential candidate who stood against Bill Clinton in 1996, was the first public figure to admit trying Viagra. "It's a great drug... I participated in the trials programme," said Mr Dole, 74. The senior Republican, who suffered impotence problems after undergoing surgery for prostate cancer in 1991, added: "Depending on what your problem may be, it can certainly help."



JERRY SPRINGER
The US talk-show host, said the drug made him a "sex addict" after he was caught with a porn star, Kendra Jade, who appeared on his show. "I thought I was a sex superman," said Springer, 54. He was later said to have been thrown out by his wife when she learnt of a secret film made of her husband with Jade and her stepmother, Kelly, sold by the same Internet company that made millions from an X-rated video featuring Pamela Anderson.



HUGH HEFNER
The 72-year-old Playboy mogul, endorsed the drug recently when he said it turned him into a "babe magnet". "It permits you to perform as you like to think you were performing in your twenties and thirties," said the soft-porn purveyor. His estranged wife, Kimberly Conrad, fearing for his health, said he had "gone girl-crazy again", adding "he's already suffered one stroke. If he goes on like this, trying to push back the clock, he'll have another."



BOB MONKHOUSE
Was quoted at the weekend as saying that the drug "works after 40 minutes and lasts for about 90 minutes". Speaking about his active sex life as a younger man, the 70-year-old comedian told a newspaper: "My generation was at it all day long, as well as all night. They did it a lot more than the previous generation... I was just fortunate with the timing."

'Turn Willy into meatballs'

KEIKO THE killer whale, the captive star of the film *Free Willy* who is now being groomed for freedom himself, should be turned into meatballs, according to a pro-whaling Norwegian MP.

Spending millions of dollars on preparing Keiko for return to the ocean is "a lunatic waste of money", according to Steinar Bastesen, former head of the Norwegian whalers' association. Instead, the four-ton orca, who last week was flown from Oregon in the US to a huge seapen in the Vestmanna Islands off

Iceland, should be turned into food aid, Mr Bastesen reckons. Keiko's carcass, he thinks, would yield about 60,000 meatballs, which could be sent to the starving children of the Sudan.

The 53-year-old Independent MP, the only one in Norway's parliament, represents the Lofoten Islands, the country's whaling area. He has been whaling since he was eight and still hunts minke whales in the summer.

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Impeachment reopens the party divides

THE BIPARTISAN robes that Congress donned as the Starr report was released already look frayed. Democrats and Republicans are squabbling over the terms of any inquiry into President Bill Clinton, an ugly sign of what may be worse fights to come.

The path that could lead to impeachment will start to be mapped today, but it could be months before any inquiry formally opens and next year before any decision on impeachment is reached. The two sides are arguing over the timetable, procedures and appropriate punishment.

There is a formidable array of detail that has yet to be agreed. The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives meets today to establish rules under which it would conduct an initial probe, and that should be agreed by the full House tomorrow.

The committee will examine the Starr report and all the evidence that goes with it until 28 September, when it must report back to Congress. Full impeachment hearings would require another resolution and, while that may come in the next few weeks, it is uncertain whether these would begin this year. Congress adjourns on 9 October to prepare for elections on 3 November and, although

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

representatives could be called back, the elections blow a hole in the timetable for hearings.

Strategically, the Republicans have an interest in dragging out proceedings, since every day they are under way is another day the President is under attack. The Democrats will want to close things as rapidly as possible, if for no other reason than to contain the damage in the elections.

That ensures a battle as the two sides seek to extract tactical advantage. What makes it worse is that the Judiciary Committee contains some of the most ideologically zealous members of Congress, each only too aware that they are in the limelight.

There is already a battle between Democrats and Republicans over terms of the initial inquiry, with Henry Hyde, committee chairman, pressing for extensive and draconian powers, including the right to arrest witnesses who refuse to testify. He also reportedly wants to be able to brush aside claims of executive privilege, which the Clinton administration has repeatedly used in its defence.

John Conyers, the senior Democrat on the committee, is furious that Mr Hyde wants to

ignore Watergate precedents - Mr Conyers is the only remaining person on the panel to have been through the hearings on Richard Nixon's impeachment - and negotiations stalled completely last week.

The Democrats have started to propose congressional censure, a slap on the wrist and a fine, rather than impeachment as the appropriate way to discipline Mr Clinton. The Republicans repudiate this, saying that the impeachment process must take its course.

Large, expensive teams of lawyers are being assembled. On the Judiciary Committee, the leading officials behind the Republican Congressmen are Thomas Mooney, 55, the chief of staff and a 30-year committee veteran, and David Schippers, 38, who arrived four months ago. Mr Schippers, as a Chicago prosecutor, helped to jail the mobster Sam Giancana. A devoted Democrat, his presence is intended to confirm the impartiality of any inquiry.

Their Democrat counterparts are Julian Epstein, 37, who worked for Mr Conyers for 14 years, and Abe Lowell, 46, who will be chief advocate for the defence. Mr Lowell previously defended such tarnished figures as former House speaker Jim Wright and former congressman Dan Rostenkowski.



Bill and Hillary Clinton walking across the White House South Lawn to his helicopter for a flight to New York for fund-raising events in the city Reuters

Blair will stand by his man

TONY BLAIR promised Bill Clinton yesterday he was not a "fair-weather friend" and would stand by him as he struggles to survive as President.

Downing Street even dismissed the significance of the Starr report. "The Prime Minister doesn't dump people because some report appears on the Internet," said Mr Blair's official spokesman.

He made his remarks as it became clear that the tide of American public opinion is starting to turn in Mr Clinton's favour and the prospects of impeachment are receding.

In the strongest expression of support for Mr Clinton during the sex scandal crisis that has engulfed the White House, the spokesman said Mr Blair would dismiss calls by some Labour MPs for him to distance himself from the beleaguered President.

Some MPs fear Mr Blair may be damaged by this close association with Mr Clinton, especially if the President is forced out of office.

They want him to scrap plans to meet Mr Clinton in New York next Monday.

Downing Street insisted, however, that the meeting would go ahead.

It would take place at a conference of centre-left parties on the global economy and the "third way" policy agenda sought by Mr Blair and Mr Clinton as an alternative to the "old right and left".

Mr Blair's spokesman said it

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

was in Britain's national interest to maintain a close relationship with the leader of the world's most powerful country.

"He sees President Clinton as a very good friend and ally to this country, not least for what he has done on several occasions for the Northern Ireland peace process," the Number 10 spokesman said.

"This report is a matter for the American Congress and the American people."

"The Prime Minister is not a fair-weather friend and whether people like it or not, that's the way he operates."

Never the less, some differences between the two leaders have emerged during their telephone conversations about the world's economic problems.

Mr Clinton, anxious to be seen on the international stage to deflect attention from his domestic crisis, is keen to call a meeting of leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) leading industrial nations.

But Mr Blair, who currently chairs the G7, does not want to summon fellow leaders to a summit unless he is convinced it would achieve tangible results.

Aides say he wants to avoid a "talking shop" meeting which would be dismissed by commentators as a "damp squib".

A decision on whether to call such a meeting would be taken in the next two weeks.

'They investigated my sex life once - report filled 36 boxes'

CIGARS, ANYONE? How about a little tearful repentance over breakfast? Much of the White House fiasco sounds like the script of a raunchy, off-the-wall comedy show.

But America's comics are treading around the Clinton crisis with uncharacteristic caution, apparently unsure whether to laugh or wince.

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

At Sunday night's Emmy ceremony in Hollywood, usually an opportunity for presenters to let rip on the big issues of the day, the scandal in Washington was largely ignored. A roster of stars, from Tom Hanks down, were all given cues to spill out

Clinton jokes, but few seized them.

"This is not the place," said a stern-faced Billy Crystal, the television awards' master of ceremonies. "It's such a horrible thing. It's not funny to me, it's sad."

Those who tried to make light of the Starr report's explicit sexual detail ended up

sounding rather lame. "Early in comedy this was used as a prop," ventured the comedian Chris Rock as he brandished a lengthy cigar. "It still is."

Elsewhere on the airwaves, the doyen of late-night chat shows, David Letterman, barely gave the Clinton affair a mention. Only Jay Leno, host of *The Tonight Show*, really rel-

ished the subject and breathed any life into it.

"This Ken Starr report is now posted on the Internet. I'll bet Clinton's glad he put a computer in every classroom now," said Leno. "I think secretly he's bragging to his buddies in the White House locker room: 'Yeah, they investigated my sex life. Needed 36 boxes'."

Part of the problem for the nation's comics is that oral sex, masturbation with a cigar, and the rest, are not normally considered subjects fit for airing on network television.

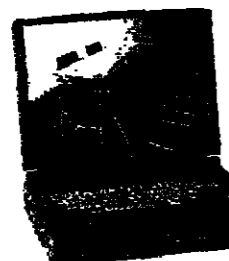
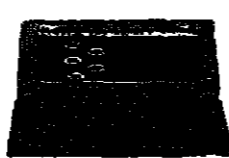
Comedians, far more acutely than members of Congress, have to consider public sensibilities, and the public is more embarrassed than amused.

Letters in the US newspapers complained yesterday about the unnecessary explicitness of Ken Starr's revelations, and recounted endless anecdotes of the difficulties in explaining the whole thing to over-inquisitive children.

Sharper wit came from political columnists. Ronald Brownstein, writing in the Los

Angeles Times, described the Starr report as "an X-rated version of 'Green Eggs and Ham'", the children's classic by Dr Seuss. "Did they fuddle on the desk? Did they fuddle in the mess? Was the president on the phone? Did she talk dirty from her home?"

The joke seems to be as much on Ken Starr as Bill Clinton.



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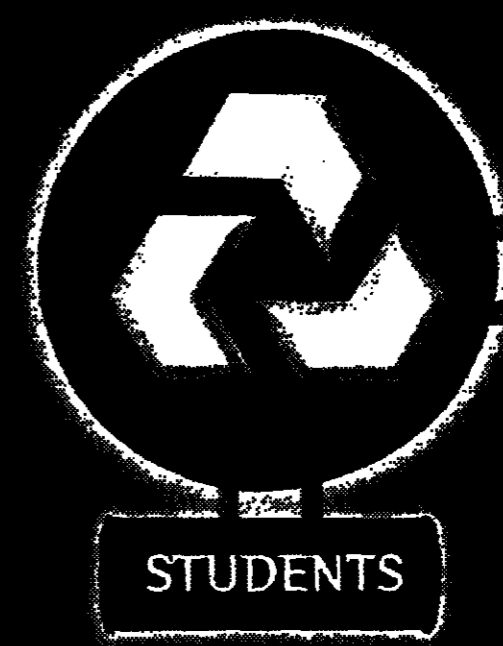
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Ulster finds a new home for old foes

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

THEY WERE all there yesterday for the first meeting of the new Belfast assembly in the old Stormont: the good, the bad and the ugly, those who incited violence, those who used it, and those who have suffered from it.

Yesterday they all seemed to have found a political home together in the chamber of the old Stormont parliament which was deliberately shut down in 1972 and accidentally burnt down in 1994.

The old chamber has, like some of its new members with dubious pasts, now undergone a process of rehabilitation and has reopened for what some yesterday declared to be the new politics and the new disposition for Northern Ireland.

The old issues were still there: Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble repeating his warning that Sinn Féin would not be welcome in government until the IRA was "prepared to destroy the weapons of war". But he said he would welcome those who were genuine about "crossing the bridge from terror to democracy".

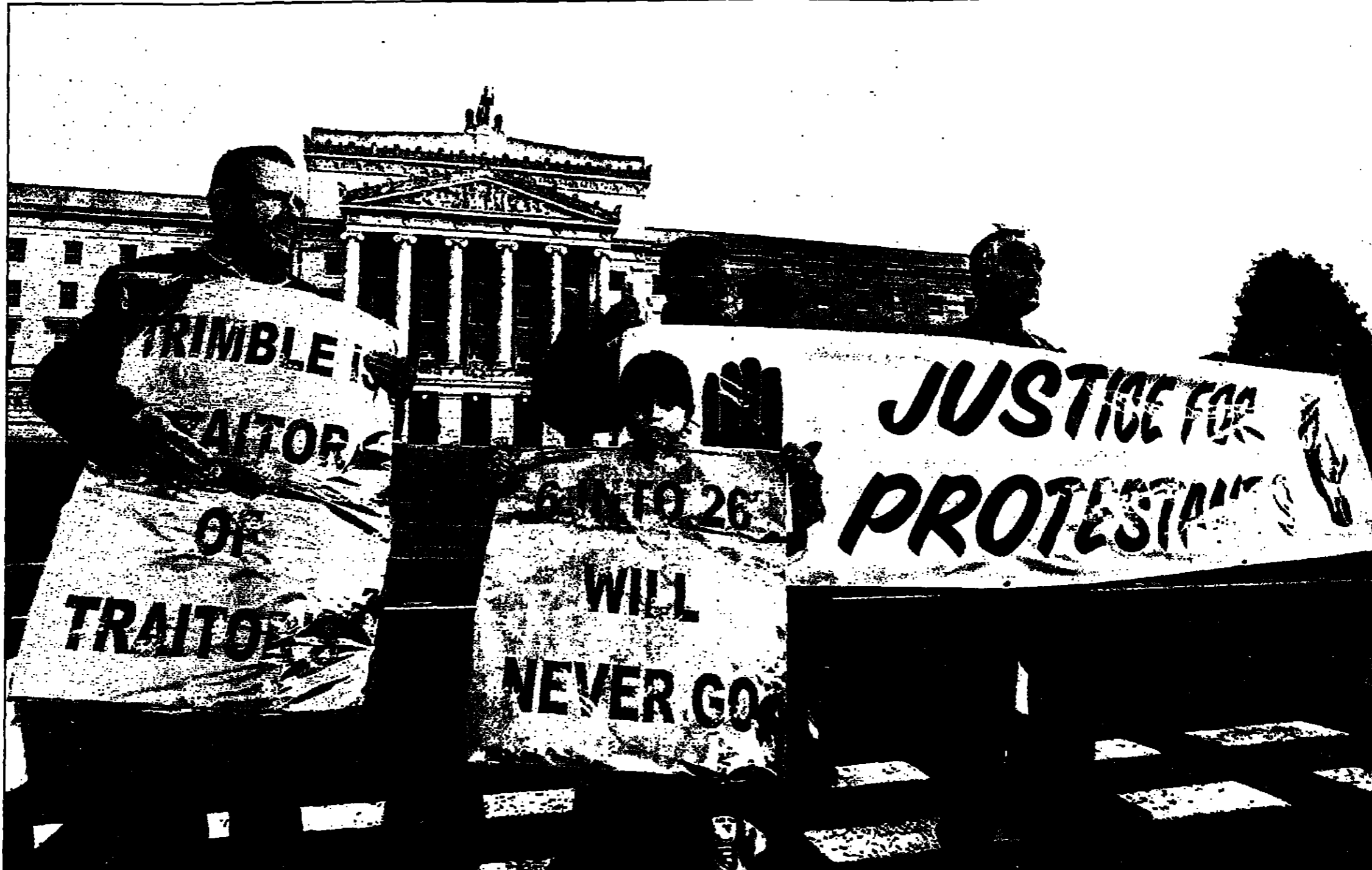
In a speech which caught something of the day's largely positive tone, he declared: "We are in the fortunate position of struggling with democratic constitutional arrangements rather than struggling with the politics of the latest atrocity."

There were, however, some bridges which looked like they would never be crossed. The Rev Ian Paisley may have sat only 15 feet away from Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness but the inclusive philosophy of the peace process looks unlikely to pervade their relationship.

Mr Paisley denounced Gerry Adams as "the leader of IRA/Sinn Féin in this house", a Sinn Féin member retorted that some Unionists might have their own paramilitary associations.

There was also verbal swordplay on the question of the use of the Irish language in the chamber, which Mr Adams wants and Mr Paisley does not, and on the question of whether the Union Jack should fly over Stormont, where their positions are the opposite.

Most of the rhetoric about looking to the future came from Mr Trimble, who is chief min-



Members of the Justice for Protestants group outside Stormont, led by the Democratic Unionist Party's Jack McKee (right), demand a Union flag over the building. Paul Faith/Pacemaker Press

ister designate, and from his deputy, Seamus Mallon of the nationalist SDLP.

Mr Mallon, referring in friendly fashion to "David and I", said the Omagh bombing and other violence meant it had been a cruel summer, but one which had given them a greater sense of purpose to create something absolutely new.

"A new politics has begun," he said. "It's time for responsibility and commitment, for

taking responsibility for our own lives."

There was humour too, as Mr Trimble's faithful Unionist deputy, John Taylor, said they should congratulate the Northern Ireland team who had won a shooting competition at the Commonwealth Games.

"I'm glad to see Mr Adams laughing," he added jovially, "because it was with legal firearms."

The reconstructed Stormont

chamber provided a sumptuous backdrop for the new politics with its blue leather seats, gorgeous wood panelling (Spanish walnut) and stately columns topped with much gilt. Everyone gets a seat, the more prominent members having a desk as well.

After this splendour, the utilitarian basement canteen proved a great leveller. Men who had just been jutting their jaws at each other across the

chamber were suddenly reduced to people looking for their lunch, queuing together in uneasy proximity before dispersing to tables on a party basis.

Then it was back upstairs for more politics. The Unionists are anxious to move ahead on a number of fronts, in particular sorting out the number of departments, and thus ministers, the new administration should have. But they want to

move slowly on actually forming an executive, demanding arms decommissioning as the price of Sinn Féin entry.

Sinn Féin, however, want an executive formed as soon as possible, with their party taking two seats on it. Their urgency on this front is in contrast to decommissioning, where they want a slow-motion approach.

Mr Paisley, meanwhile, is saying he wants two executive seats. His party should run

two departments, he argues, but it would do so as free agents, not sitting down with Sinn Féin. Most other parties believe the executive should be, in Mr Mallon's words, a single, coherent, consistent body. The question of what to do with Mr Paisley has thus joined that of what to do with Sinn Féin.

New dispensation or not, nationalists and Unionists are arrayed on opposite sides of the chamber. In the middle, where

the two sets of benches converge, some independents and small parties form a *cordon sanitaire* between the two big blocs.

Perhaps this will loosen up as time goes by, and when this new assembly makes progress in the long slow business of building new political arrangements and eventually new relationships and, perhaps, trust in place of the enmity of the past.

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Scissor attack stops rapist

BY GEORGINA PATTINSON

A WOMAN grabbed a pair of scissors and fought off a man who had raped her when she feared he was about to rape her 10-year-old daughter.

"I just wanted to stay alive and to protect her," the 35-year-old victim told police. "The man was a stranger and said he had a knife and would kill us. I have never seen such a look of terror as I saw on my daughter's face."

The terrified young girl was forced to witness her mother's rape in an attack which was described by police as "a nightmare."

The man had knocked on the door of the victim's flat on the Waltham Estate in Brixton, south London, then forced his way in. Scotland Yard said the victim was overpowered and terrified by the man, who was more than six feet tall.

He made the frightened woman strip, raped and seriously sexually assaulted her in front of her daughter. He then indecently assaulted her daughter.

When the mother realised he intended to rape her daughter, too, she attacked him with a pair of scissors, then ran naked on to the balcony of her flat to summon help from the neighbours. The man escaped.

Detective Inspector Steve Putnam of Brixton CID said the attack had shocked and upset police. Seeing the look of terror on her daughter's face, "she did what any mother or father would have done and summoned up a reserve of strength."

DI Putnam said it could have been a random attack, but police were worried that he might strike again. "We don't know why he attacked her."

The attack took place on Sunday, 6 September. The man police are hunting is described as white with blond, swept-back hair, about 30, with an oval face, blue eyes and pale complexion.

Police have issued an e-fit and have asked anyone who recognises him to call Brixton CID on 0171-326 1212 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

IN BRIEF

Five die in minibus crash

FIVE PEOPLE were killed when a lorry collided head-on with a school minibus on the main Dublin to Wexford in County Wicklow in Eire yesterday. The dead included the minibus driver, a female helper, a teenage girl and two young boys. The driver of a truck was later arrested.

Record number of London tourists

THE NUMBER of people visiting London is at a record level - up 10 per cent in 1997 to 28 million - despite the strength of the pound, according to figures released yesterday. But tourists are spending less time and money there.

Tesco to sell Apple's iMac

TESCO is to sell Apple's iMac personal computer through two of its stores, in Cardiff and Stirling, for a trial period. Tesco is Britain's first supermarket to sell computers - starting with models from Fujitsu and Siemens-Nixdorf.

Jodrell Bank seeks aliens

BRITISH RADIO astronomers yesterday joined a Californian-based attempt to detect signals from outer space, using the huge dish at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire.

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Prescott rejects job-loss claims

JOHN PRESCOTT slapped down union leaders yesterday for blaming job losses on government policy. The Deputy Prime Minister acknowledged that "life is not easy" in some parts of manufacturing, but dismissed assertions that it was all caused by high interest rates.

He told TUC delegates that union officials should stop talking Britain into a recession. In particular, he took issue with comments by Ken Jackson, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, who said the economy was "within hours" of diving into recession.

The Government was determined to keep to its strate-

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
AND PAUL WAUGH

cabinet colleagues to use regional development agency taskforces to come to the rescue of firms such as the electronics group Philips, which has warned that 3,000 jobs are under threat at its plant in the United Kingdom.

However, an unrepentant Mr Jackson reiterated his warnings that the British economy was "staring recession in the face".

The engineering union leader said: "The economic hurricane reaching our shores from the Far East is being compounded by the strong pound and by high interest rates." Both employers and unions were united in their assessment that the UK was threatened with a severe economic downturn.

In his address to the conference Mr Prescott insisted the Government had made a "damn good start". He said that the recent "Fairness at Work" White Paper was a big advance for social justice, although it did not grant unions or employers everything they wanted.

His praise for the document is thought to be an attempt to ensure that Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will resist employers' demands that it should be watered down.



Prescott: 'Life is not easy'

Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, later told delegates that they should fight vigorously against moves by the CBI to keep a ceiling on unfair dismissal awards and block automatic recognition where a majority of workers belong to a union. He said: "Let me sound a note of warning. Be on your guard. There is a back door to Number 10 and there is a back door into the Department of Trade and Industry. The employers will use those back doors to get the White Paper watered down."

Mr Prescott said the electronics factories had been hit by the collapse of microchip prices from £30 to £1.30 and problems in the Japanese and other Asian economies. Similar plants had closed in Silicon Valley in the US, in Ireland and on the Continent. "They are nothing to do with the British pound or interest rates."

Mr Prescott said the Government was working to create a quick-response team to help manufacturers at the first sign of job losses. The Deputy Prime Minister had held talks with



Neville Lawrence chokes back tears as he thanks unions for supporting his fight for justice after his son's murder

John Voos

Lawrence killers will never be brought to justice, says father

THE KILLERS of the murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence are not likely to be jailed for the crime, his father Neville told the conference.

In a deeply emotional speech that left many delegates in tears, Mr Lawrence thanked the TUC for its support throughout his family's campaign for justice in the face of indifference from police, the courts and even the government of the time.

Mr Lawrence, who broke down at the beginning of his address, confessed that he was not optimistic that the killers would be convicted for the murder of Stephen, aged 18, at a bus stop in south-east London in 1993.

"I don't think anybody is going to be prosecuted or serve time for the death of my son. That's the worst thing I have ever faced, to know that these people are going to get away

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

with it in a country like this. It pains me," he said. Mr Lawrence was determined to ensure that his son's memory lived on in an educational trust set up recently in his name, a cause that gained further support when the TUC president, John Edmonds, presented him with a £1,000 cheque.

Mr Lawrence described his anger after the murder, and the way police treated his family, "like animals", and said local trade unionists were the first to support his fight for truth.

Mr Lawrence said that even with the strong help of the unions, it took the intervention of President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to get the campaign the attention it deserved.

He said that his family's campaign was a "worthwhile fight" for all Britain's children,

not just black children, and he would not be "fobbed off" by anyone. He said all parents "had to stop your breath" every time their child walked out the door. Even now, five years on, "I still think my son is coming through that door".

Stephen was stabbed by a gang of white youths in Editham, but police said there was insufficient evidence to bring a prosecution. A private prosecution brought by his parents collapsed two years ago.

A new inquiry was conducted earlier this year to explore allegations that police racism contributed to delays in the murder investigation and failure to secure a prosecution. The inquiry, which was chaired by Sir William Macpherson and took 10,000 pages of evidence, with 88 witnesses, will reconvene for final legal submissions later this month.

In an earlier address to the

congress yesterday, Cheryl Carolus, high commissioner of South Africa, offered her government's continuing support for the Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign, but warned that governments of all nations faced an increasing tide of racism unless they tackled the poverty and lack of opportunity that often gave rise to it.

Ms Carolus said: "The murder of Stephen Lawrence cannot go unchallenged. We know that racism is alive and well in Britain, that racism and xenophobia is alive and well in the world today, including still in South Africa. We can stop it."

She praised the bravery of Mr Lawrence and his wife Doreen, and said it was clear that every time they had to speak about the case they felt the death of their son yet another time.

"I want to salute them for their bravery, which sometimes

is completely unrecognised." Ms Carolus also praised the clear direction given by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, that such racist murders were totally unacceptable and that every effort would be made to find the perpetrators.

But the TUC's race relations committee chairman, Bob Purkiss, warned the conference that the trade union movement should not rest on its laurels.

"I am proud of what unions do. We have taken a lead and we have taken a stand. But I have to say to you - it's not enough. We still haven't got the black union officers to reflect the membership."

"Many black trade unionists are now saying that trade union action has reached a plateau. That unions are not willing to take the next steps and that trade unions are still male, stale and pale," he said.

Hit-list threat to firms that ban unions

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

ONE OF Britain's biggest unions has drawn up a hit-list of companies with "bad bosses" where workers will be offered six months' free membership. Bill Morris, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said directors at the selected firms would be offered "one last chance" to allow their employees to join his organisation before they would be "named and shamed".

Mr Morris said management at the companies concerned had engaged in tactics that frustrated the right of working people to join the union - something that was unlawful under existing legislation.

However, the initiative was also seeking to take advantage of a law on union recognition that would come into force next year. The companies on the list have either withdrawn union recognition or have refused to bargain with the T&G despite a large membership.

To boost the recruitment process, Mr Morris said his union would forgo subscriptions for six months. "We are determined that the full benefit of trade unionism goes to all who want to be members. We are determined that there will be no union-free workplace in Britain."

The recent "Fairness at Work" White Paper proposes awarding recognition to unions where the employees vote for it or where they can prove they have half the workforce in membership.

In anticipation of the law ADT, the security alarm company, has agreed to allow a ballot of its 1,800 technicians to discover whether they want the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union recognised.

Ken Jackson, leader of the union, said the AEEU had been recognised for more than 20 years at Thorn Security, one of the companies involved in a merger that formed ADT. "We are keen to work in a productive partnership with the company in the interests of our members and the company as a whole," Mr Jackson said.

The Manufacturing Science, Finance union is also organising a recognition ballot among 400 employees at Machine Mart, a plant hire company with 24 depots across the country.

The moves follow a challenge from Ian McCartney, Trade Minister, to stop "whingeing" about the White Paper and go out and recruit members.

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	£10,000	15.9%	£236.09	£14,280.08
	£16,000	Not available		
LLOYDS	£4,000	16.9%	£96.48	£5,890.08
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	£16,000	13.9%	£344.75	£21,885.08
ABNEY NATIONAL	£4,000	16.3%	£95.57	£5,774.32
	£10,000	13.4%	£225.70	£13,542.08
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IN BRIEF

Energy supplier under attack

UNION ENERGY, the TUC's own energy supply company, was attacked by Unison, the Fire Brigade Union and the National Union of Journalists as an example of "collusion" with the privatised electricity company. However, the company, which works with Scottish Power to offer cut-price energy to 5 million union members, shrugged off the criticism and announced that it was marking deregulation of the domestic electricity market with a pledge to give customers the first single bill for gas and electricity.

GCHQ ends 15 years absence

CAROLINE CORNELL, yesterday became the first government communication headquarters (GCHQ) delegate at the TUC conference for 15 years. She told delegates: "It has finally been recognised that staff at GCHQ have no conflict of loyalties. We can do a sensitive job on behalf of this country and still be active members of a national trade union. Individual employment rights... have now been restored." Unions were banned from the Cheltenham centre after the then Tory government alleged intelligence work had been disrupted by industrial action.

Today's business

- Debates on pensions, health and safety, arts and sport.
- David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, gives speech on government's life-long learning initiative.
- Debate on national minimum wage, including address by Professor George Bain, chairman of the Low Pay Commission.
- Ian McCartney, Trade and Industry Minister, addresses fairness at work fringe meeting.
- Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, speaks at fringe meeting to celebrate 50th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Eddie George gives first speech to the TUC by a governor of the Bank of England.

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POSSIBLE TARGET	Newcastle United	Manchester United, Leeds United	Manchester United	Manchester United, Liverpool, Leeds United	Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur	Aston Villa	Tottenham Hotspur	Arsenal
OFFICIAL COMMENT	"We never comment on speculation or rumour"	Not available	"We are not interested in commenting"	"We can't comment on market rumour"	Not available	"We would not comment on these matters"	"We have been approached by a number of clubs. They are all in far too early a stage for comment."	"We have discussed with Arsenal Football Club Plc ways in which our two companies could work together."
WHAT'S THE GAIN?	One of the sponsors of the Premier League. Little else to commend a bid.	Controls rights to show Premier League matches overseas. Already owns Paris St Germain football team in France. Wants to stop Rupert Murdoch expanding into continental Europe.	Interpublic is expanding aggressively in sports promotion and sponsorship. Frank Lowe, a director of the group, is a Manchester United fan. However, it is hard to see what the company could do to improve Manchester United's marketing operation.	Looked at buying Man Utd several years ago and is shareholder - with BSkyB - in the club's cable TV channel. Needs programming to win subscribers for ONdigital, the digital television operator in which it has a 50 per cent stake.	Already uses its extensive sports interests, which include the Atlanta Braves, to push its cable television subsidiaries. Vice-chairman Ted Turner, who founded TV news channel CNN, is keen to prevent Rupert Murdoch from expanding his empire.	Could use its cable franchises, which include the Birmingham area, to screen pay-per-view matches. However, CWC is keen to upgrade its network and expand its customer base before it moves into supplying its own programming.	United News, which is run by Lord Hollick, is part of the consortium whose £80m bid for Spurs was rejected by Alan Sugar. It could screen games through SDN, the digital television operator in which United has a stake.	Carlton was beaten by BSkyB during the last bidding war for Premier League rights. Like Granada it needs programming to attract subscribers to ONdigital, its digital broadcasting joint venture

Sugar rejects £80m offer for Spurs

TAKEOVER SPECULATION continued to swirl around British football clubs yesterday as Tottenham Hotspur confirmed that it had rejected an offer valuing it at about £80m.

The news came as Sheffield United, the First Division club, announced that it was in talks with a number of individuals who were interested in taking a stake in the club.

However, hopes of a bidding war over Manchester United began to fade after the mystery bidder who has asked a United States investment bank to investigate topping British Sky Broadcasting's £623.4m bid failed to break cover.

In an official statement to the Stock Exchange, Tottenham Hotspur said Alan Sugar, the chairman, had rejected an offer for his 40.88 per cent stake in the club from English National Investment Company, the financial group.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Mr Sugar had approached ENIC about buying his shareholding for 80p a share - putting a value of more than £80m on the club. However, when BSkyB tabled its bid for Manchester United last week he decided that the club was worth more and decided to reject the bid. Tottenham shares closed up 13p at 85p.

Sources at ENIC said the company had been "days away" from completing a successful bid. The company is now expected to wait until the takeover speculation has died down before making another attempt.

"We really want to get Tottenham back to where it belongs," the source said. "We're in the long-term investing game now."

ENIC has the support of United News & Media, owners



Arsenal, Leeds United, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur are four of the main clubs in play



of the Express newspaper titles, and the US media giant Time Warner. It already owns 25 per cent of Glasgow Rangers and has stakes in clubs including Slavia Prague and AEK Athens.

The news came on the day when the City was gripped by intense speculation about the identity of a mystery bidder who

is considering a counter-bid for Manchester United. Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, confirmed over the weekend that it had been asked to speak to HSBC, Manchester United's financial advisers, about the possibility of making an offer.

Interpublic, the US advertising group, was one of the

names in the frame. Industry rumours suggested that Frank Lowe, a director of the group who also runs the Lowe Howard Spink agency, was keen to mount a bid. However, although the company refused to comment, insiders played down the rumours.

Other possible bidders include Time Warner, the US

media giant, and the television group Granada.

However, sources close to Manchester United played down the prospect of the bid materialising, pointing out that the new bidder was planning to fund the purchase with a large amount of debt. "This is absolutely not a business you load up with debt," an insider

said. Although Manchester United's board would be legally obliged to consider any serious bid that improved on BSkyB's, the club is expected to continue recommending the broadcaster's offer.

Sheffield United yesterday joined in the frenzy by confirming that its chairman and major shareholder, Mike McDonald, had started "preliminary discussions with a number of individuals" who were interested in investing in the club.

However, Sony, the electronics group, refused to comment on reports that it was lining up a £220m bid for Newcastle United.

John Bridgman, Director-General of Fair Trading, yesterday officially invited comments on BSkyB's offer for Manchester United. The OFT will take submissions on the bid until 28 September before deciding whether the bid

should be referred to Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The final decision rests with Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who will receive the OFT's advice by 12 October.

Meanwhile Roger Taylor, the former drummer with the rock group Queen, emerged as the mystery benefactor who has donated £10,000 to the Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association to help to fund its campaign against the BSkyB bid.

A group of Manchester United shareholders, led by Michael Crick, the TV presenter, are also lobbying against the deal. Mr Crick said the group had approached Richard Branson of Virgin for advice on its campaign. "We wrote to Branson asking him to give advice on how a bid might be structured that would protect the interests of the fans," he said.

Arch-critic Littlejohn aims to take control

RICHARD LITTLEJOHN, the controversial broadcaster and columnist, is heading a consortium of wealthy Tottenham Hotspur supporters that wants to buy a controlling interest in the club from the chairman, Alan Sugar.

The consortium has been in talks with Mr Sugar for more than six months and is understood to have told him to name his price for a 20.9 per cent stake

BY NICK HARRIS

in the north London football club. Mr Sugar was thought to have valued his stake at between £70m and £80m, but it is understood that in the light of Sky's £623m offer for Manchester United he may now be holding out for offers that would value his share at more than £100m.

Mr Sugar owns 40.88 per cent in total and if a deal with

Mr Littlejohn's consortium were to go through, the remainder of his stake would be passed to his son, Daniel.

The consortium wants to buy 20.9 per cent to give it a holding large enough to influence decision-making and block aggressive takeovers. It does not want a stake of 30 per cent or higher as it would be legally obliged to make an offer for the whole club, something

it neither wants nor can afford.

The consortium has yet to receive a response from Mr Sugar, but Mr Littlejohn said yesterday: "Our offer is still on the table."

Tottenham yesterday turned down a bid for the club from the leisure group, Enic, which had valued the club at 80p per share, or about £80m in total. Shares were trading at 85p each yesterday. Enic owns a host of Eu-

ropean clubs, has a stake in Glasgow Rangers and is known to want to extend its interests with a move into the Premiership.

Mr Littlejohn's main employer, ironically, is Rupert Murdoch, on whose Sky television the former's chat show is screened and in whose Sun newspaper he writes a column twice a week.

Mr Littlejohn was originally approached by a group of

wealthy Tottenham supporters to head a proposed purchase of Mr Sugar's shares. It now seems likely that Mr Sugar will ignore them and wait for a much improved offer for the club.

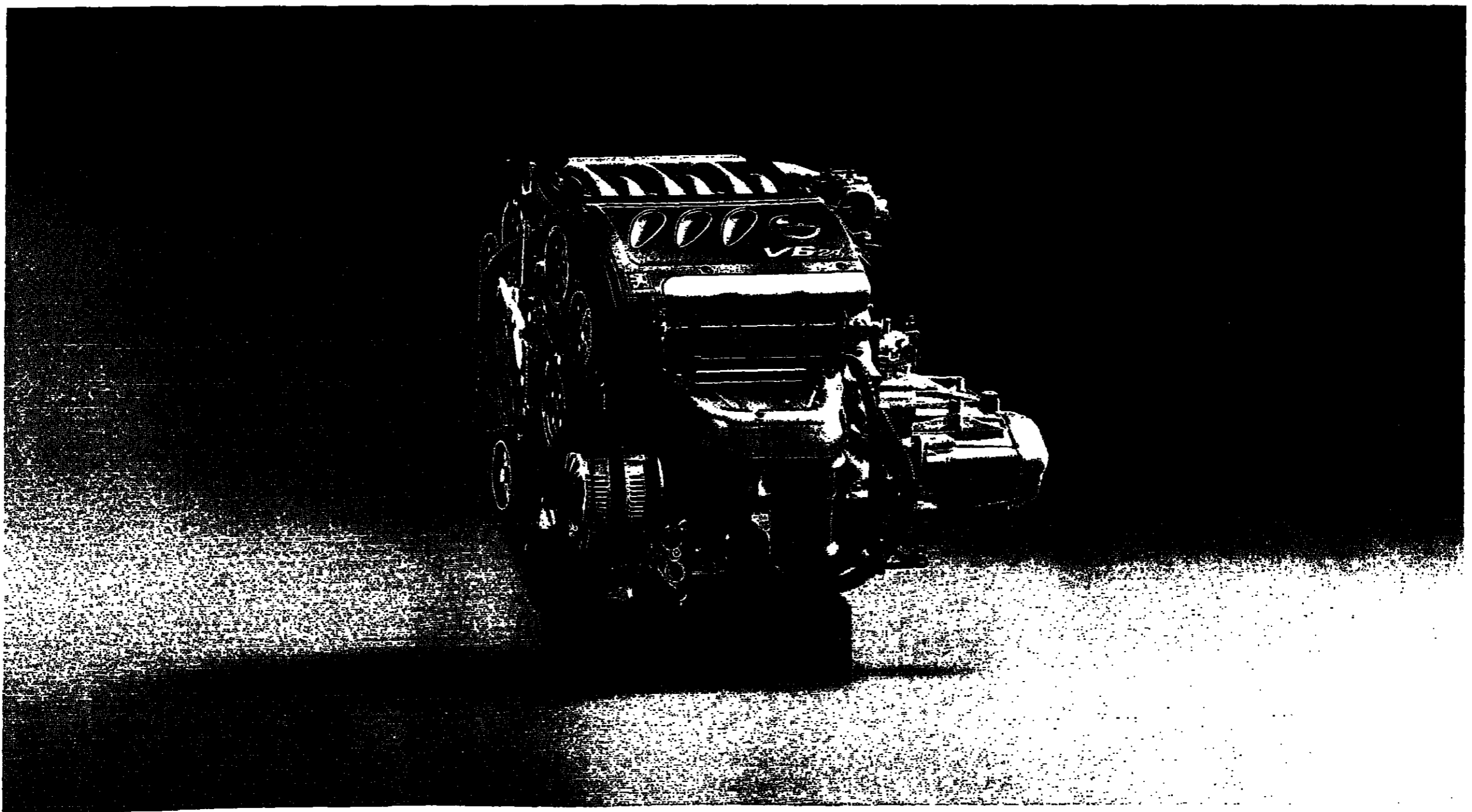
Tottenham supporters criticised Mr Sugar yesterday after he rejected the Enic bid. Mark Jacob, spokesman for the Tottenham Action Group, said: "Either Mr Sugar should come out once and for all and say the

club is for sale and at what price, or else he should tell us his plans for the future and how he intends to bring the Premiership title to White Hart Lane this season, as he promised two years ago.

"The supporters are fed up with constant games in the boardroom and all the uncertainty is clearly having an effect on the performance of the team."



Littlejohn: Club supporter



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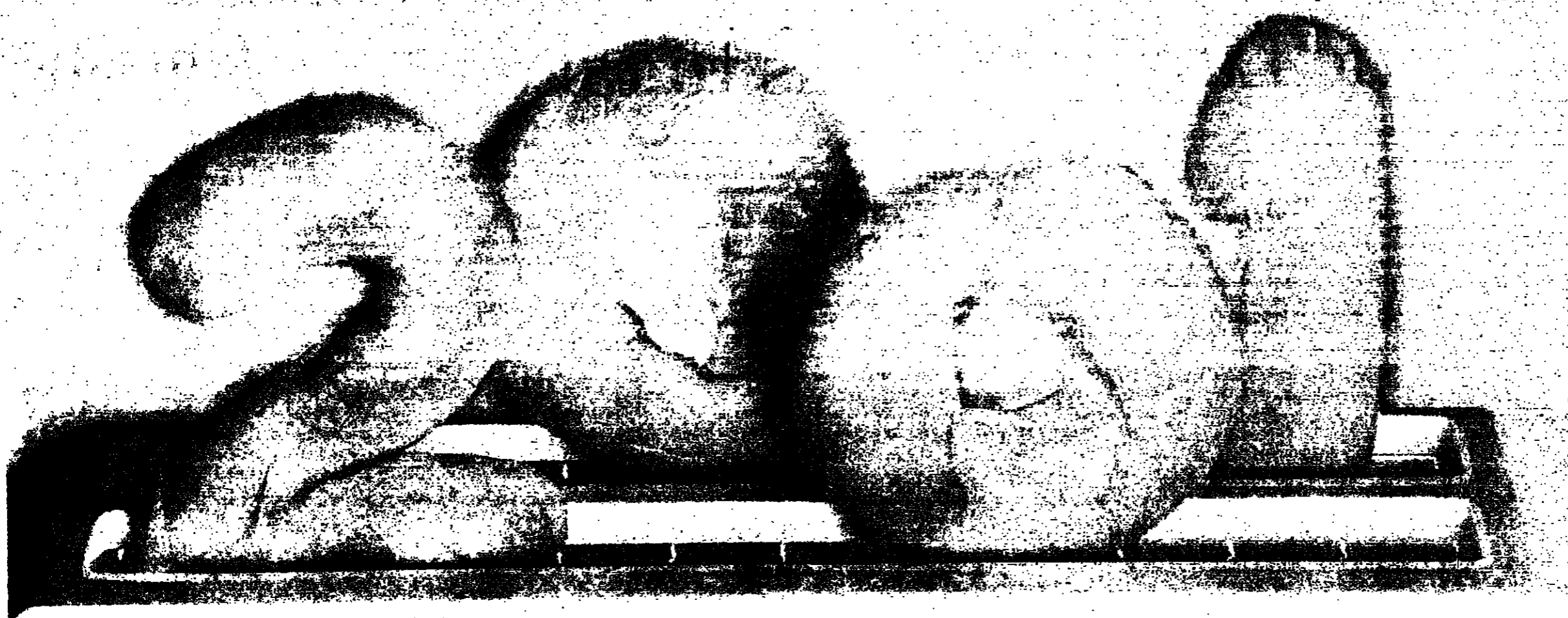
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Surgeon 'covered up his mistakes'

A GYNAECOLOGIST was accused yesterday of removing a woman's ovaries without her permission weeks after telling her that the organs were healthy.

Consultant surgeon Rodney Ledward, 58, of Folkestone, Kent, allegedly performed a hysterectomy on his 48-year-old patient so incompetently that she later suffered extreme blood loss, resulting in the removal of two litres of blood from her stomach and abdomen.

At a hearing of the General

BY CATHAL MILMO

Medical Council, the medical profession's disciplinary body, it was claimed that Mr Ledward then wrote to his patient's GP to tell her that the procedure had been "uncomplicated", when her condition had in fact been approaching a state of clinical shock.

Mr Ledward, who has 33 years' medical experience, is accused of a catalogue of misdemeanours concerning the cases of 14 patients over seven

years at the William Harvey NHS Hospital at Ashford, Kent, and private hospitals in the county.

The hearing of the GMC's professional conduct committee was told that Mr Ledward also faces claims that he tried to profit from his NHS patients by persuading them to opt for private treatment at a private hospital where he was employed part-time.

Lawyers for the GMC said Mr Ledward had told his 48-year-old patient that her

ovaries were still ovulating and healthy five weeks before she underwent the hysterectomy at a private hospital in November 1992. But while the woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, was having surgery, Mr Ledward removed the organs without having earlier sought her consent.

After the operation, Mr Ledward left the hospital and the patient was removed to a post-operative care room where her condition rapidly deteriorated as she suffered massive blood

loss through inadequate stitching to the points where her womb had been removed.

James Badenoch, QC, for the GMC, told the hearing: "Her condition was approaching haemorrhagic shock. She was obviously losing blood and losing a lot of it."

While nurses monitored the woman's condition, senior doctors and administrative staff tried to contact Mr Ledward by leaving messages at his London and Folkestone homes. Eventually contact was made, and

Mr Ledward carried out a second operation at 11pm, some nine hours after the original procedure. During the second operation it was found that "in excess" of two litres of blood had leaked into the patient's stomach and abdomen.

The hearing was told that the gynaecologist, who also worked as an obstetrician, later wrote a letter to his patient's doctor in which he failed to make any mention of the post-operative complications.

Mr Badenoch said: "To de-

scribe the operation after this terrible post-operative course of events as 'uncomplicated' was at the very best a serious gloss on the truth, and at worst totally misleading. With regards to the removal of the ovaries, I need say no more than that it was obviously inexcusable to do that."

Mr Badenoch outlined four categories under which the surgeon's misdemeanours could be gathered: clinical and surgical incompetence, inappropriate delegation to junior

doctors, lack of involvement when his patients developed complications and dishonesty in search of personal gain. In two cases it is alleged that Mr Ledward sought to persuade patients that they could receive certain treatment only at a private hospital.

Mr Ledward denies failing to obtain his patient's consent for the removal of her ovaries. He also denies causing the bleeding and making misleading statements to her GP.

The hearing continues today.

March of time defeats the Royal Tournament

THE ROYAL Tournament, a venerable institution for 113 years but declining in popularity for the past decade, is to be scrapped, it was announced yesterday. The military spectacle has come to be seen by the Government and service chiefs as old-fashioned, anachronistic and failing to reflect the role of the armed forces in the modern world.

Instead, the new millennium is expected to see a new-style, hi-tech show, using the latest stage technology, and sited away from its traditional venue at Earl's Court, west London. The Millennium Dome, in Greenwich, has not been ruled out as a possible venue.

The Ministry of Defence's decision received a mixed reaction from servicemen's organisations. The Royal British Legion said it was "disappointed that the tournament would not continue in its present form". But it added that, as an organisation it looked forward to the future, and awaited with "eager anticipation" to see how the show developed.

An official of the Burma Star Association of veterans said the development was not surprising. He added: "This appears to be the way of the world. I am afraid. There are changes being carried out for the sake of changes, or because some consultant or other asks for it. I thought this was something which cut across age barriers."

Some of the proceeds from the tournament go towards supporting service charities. The RAF Benevolent Fund said it was saddened by the decision

BY KIM SENGUPTA

to change the format, and General Mike Regan, controller of the Army Benevolent Fund, said he hoped the contribution to charities would continue in the future.

Previous attempts to modernise the tournament have failed and come under attack from a variety of quarters. London Weekend Television, which won the rights of the event from the BBC, tried to make it more appealing to younger spectators by introducing TV's *Gladiators* into the show, a move attacked as tacky. An appearance by a Japanese marching band was criticised by some war veterans.

Announcing his decision yesterday, George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, said: "The Royal Tournament has served us well for a great many years, but as we approach the millennium it is timely for us to take a fresh look at this traditional event."

"This is a new beginning, not an end, of the tournament and my aim is to make it more modern and relevant whilst retaining an element of pageantry." The Queen and the tournament organisers have been informed of the plans. A one-off show is expected to be staged in the year 2000, and the new-look production may include an open-air pageant.

The Grand Military Tournament and Assault at Arms, as it was first known, was started in 1880 by the Duke of Cambridge as a skill-at-arms event for the Army, with money raised for military charities.



Claude Picasso (left) with one of his father's pieces, 'Musketeer', going on display in London with other works including 'Owl and Head of a Faun' (right)

Picasso's feats of clay shine in light fantastic

AS FAR as Sophie Hicks, the arch-minimalist, is concerned, her design for the new Picasso ceramics show at the Royal Academy is verging on the fussy.

"This is more than I have ever done before for an exhibition," she said, amazed at herself.

In truth, the look she has given the high-ceilinged rooms at the gallery in Piccadilly, central London, is almost entirely pared down. The colourful pots,

BY VANESSA THORPE

bowls and figures that Pablo Picasso fashioned or painted, or both, while in Vallauris, southern France, in the late Forties and early Fifties are displayed on long slabs of concrete. The slabs are at table height and deliberately have the appearance of stone.

Ms Hicks intends them to echo the shape and the solidity of the kind of ancient tables

and platforms used in religious worship. "At first, we wanted the pots to appear to just float in the rooms in some way," she said, "but then we realised the galleries were too big for that. The work would just be lost."

Ms Hicks, the former fashion editor of *Vogue* magazine, who became an architect and then worked with the clothes designer Paul Smith on his impossibly trendy Westbourne House emporium in west Lon-

don, has been working on the Picasso exhibition since February.

This is not her first collaboration with the academy, however: she was also the architect on "Sensation", last year's phenomenally successful exhibition of Charles Saatchi's collection of contemporary work by young British artists.

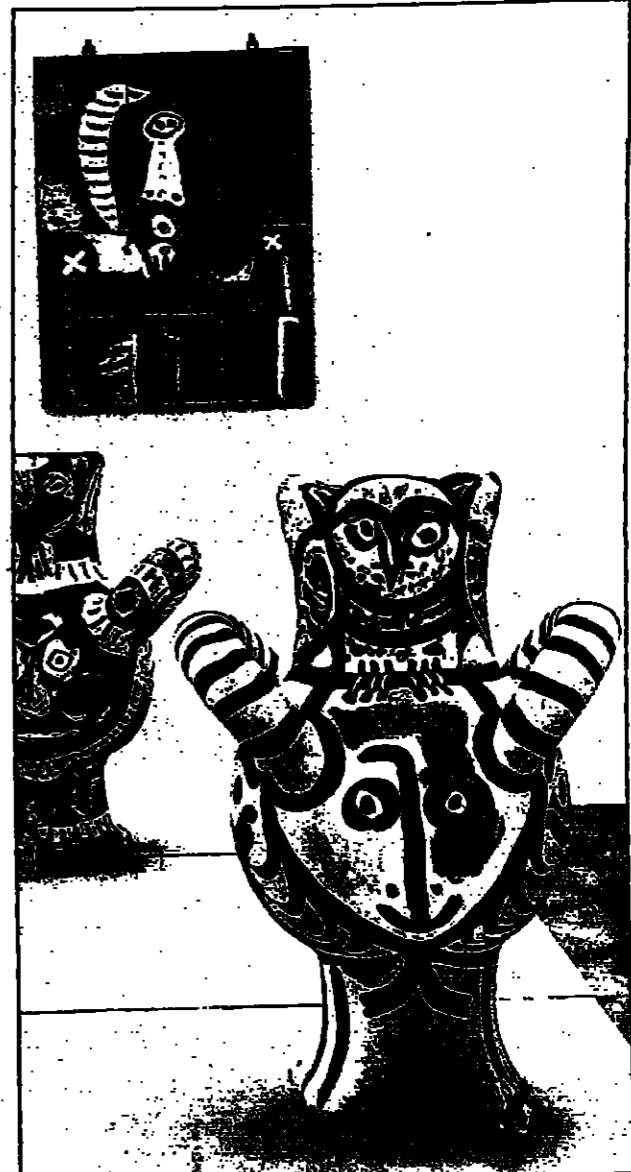
"My work for the Picasso is not at all the same as with 'Sensation', where I tried to get the maximum contrast with the

decor of this building as possible, even to the extent of removing modern signs and fittings," she recalled. "With that exhibition, I felt some of the modern works actually looked better here than they had in the modern galleries."

With Picasso's ceramics her approach was to allow the work to look very real and touchable. "I wanted a very flat light, a neon light and I don't mind the fittings showing at all."

"It is very different to working on a shop, where you are trying to make things look precious. These pots are precious and so you want to make their surroundings as basic as possible." After this exhibition, Ms Hicks plans to leave the fine-art world for a while and work on the construction of a new hotel in Argentina.

The exhibition *Picasso, Painter and Sculptor in Clay* runs from 17 September to 16 December



AFP, AP



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Cabinet split on homes buy-back

A PLAN to buy back council houses could bring the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Deputy Prime Minister into direct conflict.

The recent comprehensive spending review completed by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has set councils the task of raising £2.75bn a year through asset sales.

But proposals from the Department of Environment Transport and the Regions (DETR), headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, are designed to encourage councils to repurchase assets.

BY ANDREW MULLINS

placing homes purchased under the scheme. The net flow of housing into the private sector is running at 40,000 properties a year, and the new plans are intended to reduce this number by cutting the maximum discount available to tenants by as much as half.

In addition, a "buy-back incentive" will allow councils to use council house receipts, which have been frozen for years, to cover a quarter of the cost of repurchasing former municipal property.

The buy-back incentives will apply to any former council property, whether or not it was bought from the council by its present owner.

The maximum discount available to council tenants is £50,000 but the DETR believes this amount is unjustifiable and intends to reduce it substantially, in line with local house prices.

In the South-east the proposed maximum will be £35,000; in the North-east it will be as low as £22,000.

Last year 40,000 homes were sold under right-to-buy for an average price of about £21,000, and the average discount was 50 per cent.

Bournemouth Borough Council spent £250,000 last year repurchasing its former stock and has been active in the area since 1994.

A spokeswoman says there is still a "stigma" attached to some council property, making it hard to resell.

Steve Thompson, head of housing in Bournemouth, said yesterday that a range of problems, from the housing boom to high service charges, caused many former council tenants to fall behind with mortgage payments.

Once a property is repurchased the occupants are rehoused and a family from the waiting list is moved in. This prevents people from drifting in and out of home ownership at the expense of the state.

Sarah Foraud, who bought her council flat in 1983, said: "I am really hopeful this proposal is going to bail us out of this mess."



Bishop Pat Buckley ordains Sister Frances Meigh as her daughter Melanie looks on

Alan Lewis

Catholic woman in Ireland is ordained

THERE WAS a quiet revolution in religious life yesterday when Ireland's first Catholic woman priest was ordained at a ceremony in rural Co Louth.

A more unlikely revolutionary would be hard to find. After becoming "Mother Frances", Frances Meigh, a 67-year-old British-born divorced mother with three adult children, returned to a hermit's cottage nearby in the village of Omagh, where her life will centre on prayer and painting icons.

Mother Frances, a former Anglican whose marriage was first annulled by the church, took vows in 1984 to become a nun, though there was a dispute with clergy in Middlesbrough, Cleveland, over the circumstances.

Now she will emerge for a few hours daily to St Andrew's, the former Protestant church in Omagh, reported in April by Bishop Pat Buckley, Ireland's rebel Catholic liberal cleric.

Bishop Buckley maintains the Meigh ordination is "perfectly in accord with Catholic doctrine" based on scripture and tradition, citing St Paul's recognition of Deaconess Phoebe at Caesarea and the wider acceptance of women deacons in the early Christian church.

A message of support for the first woman priest arrived from Tony Benn, the Labour MP. A number of Catholic clergy supporting admission of women to the priesthood attended the ceremony. Mainstream Irish

BY ALAN MURDOCH
in Dublin

bishops presented a face of regal indifference, though many were believed to be seething. Their silence may also signal a lack of unanimity in their opposition.

Official church spokesmen are privately strongly critical of Bishop Buckley, strongly disapproving of his welcome to divorcees and mixed religion couples seeking the formal church wedding ceremonies denied them under Vatican canon law. His appointment in June as a bishop by a fellow dissident, Bishop Michael Cox, was pronounced "valid but unlawful" by the official church, which excommunicated him. He insists he remains a Catholic, though outside formal church structures.

But after the clerical sex abuse scandals and the embarrassment over the Bishop of Galway, Eamonn Casey, who had a son in a secret affair with an American woman, the bishops have remained unusually quiet over the latest breach of discipline.

The impact of this rebellion is complicated by the historically fragmented nature of the faith with its diverse spread of priestly teaching and nursing orders pledging allegiance to Rome, although they have sharply varying degrees of international conformity to compulsory celibacy, and now, to an exclusively male priesthood.



Gordon Brown: 'Councils must sell their assets'

The plan will challenge the Right to Buy scheme whose popularity played a key role in the electoral success of Margaret Thatcher in 1979.

A spokesman for the DETR said: "Because we want to encourage local authorities to look at the assets they can sell doesn't mean that there won't be some areas where it's sensible for the reverse to happen." The Treasury refused to comment.

The DETR green paper is being considered by councils across England and is likely to be enacted during the winter. It will make council houses less attractive to buy and ex-council stock easier to repurchase.

According to DETR estimates, the Right to Buy scheme costs £400m a year in lost rents plus the cost of re-

Ruth Ellis lawyers demand secret papers

LAWYERS TRYING to overturn the murder conviction of Ruth Ellis have asked the Government for access to secret papers about the case that have a 30-year closure order on them.

The legal team acting for the sister of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain, believe the papers relate to a meeting that her solicitor had with Scotland Yard in 1973 - 18 years after she was hanged.

One theory is that the solicitor, John Bickford, had known all along about the involvement of another man in the murder and that in 1973, when he was a dying man, he had gone to tell the police what had really happened.

"The closed file we have

BY ROGER DOBSON

found at the Public Record Office has a 30-year closure order on it, dating from 1973. She was executed in 1955, and as far as we are aware, nothing else happened in 1973 that could have prompted such a secrecy order," said one of the lawyers, Lynne de Maid, a member of the Cardiff-based legal team that successfully won a posthumous pardon for Mahmood Mattan, the executed Cardiff seaman.

Ruth Ellis was executed for the murder of her lover, David Blakely, whom she shot. The trial excited worldwide interest and has since generated more than 30 books.

Ms de Maid said: "At the time

she was going out with Blakely, she also had another boyfriend, Desmond Cousens.

"Ruth left home at 15, was courted by a Canadian airman and became pregnant by him. "She met George Ellis who was very violent, and then Blakely who was physically very violent and who punched her in the stomach, causing a miscarriage three weeks before the shooting."

"We know that Ruth fired the gun, but we think it was a joint enterprise; that Cousens borrowed a gun, cleaned it, gave Ruth target practice, plied her with Pernod and then drove her to the scene of the crime."

"We think Bickford knew that, but listened to Cousens perjurying himself in court when



Ruth Ellis: Sacked lawyer the day before she hanged

he should have done something about it. Just why he did that, we do not know yet.

"In 1973 Bickford went to Scotland Yard, where we be-

lieve he confessed that he didn't represent her properly. Ruth did not expect to hang and we think she was encouraged in that belief by her solicitor.

"It was only on the day before she hanged, when she sacked him, that she realised what was happening," Ms de Maid said.

"We have made repeated requests for access to the closed file and we have now written to ministers seeking their help."

The team expects to submit an application for an appeal with the Criminal Cases Review Commission by the end of this month, which will include the details of the attack by Blakely. "We feel very strongly that they will refer it, and we think

the case will be heard next year at the Court of Appeal. She was not given a fair hearing," Ms de Maid said.

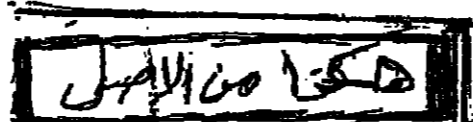
"When you read the papers on this case and that of Mattan, you realise the appalling standards of justice that operated in those days. Facts about her miscarriage were not even brought out at trial. It is very sad to think of this young woman with a two-year-old and a 10-year-old going to her death."

The team is also putting together a file on her psychological condition after her miscarriage, including depression and jealousy, both of which might now be mitigating factors, reducing the conviction from murder to manslaughter.



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Albanian rebels fire on premier

THE ALBANIAN capital, Tirana, descended into chaos yesterday as tanks lumbered through the streets and the government declared that it was facing an attempted coup by opposition supporters loyal to the former president, Sali Berisha.

Armoured vehicles seized by opposition supporters fired repeatedly into the building that houses the office of Fatos Nano, the country's Socialist Party Prime Minister. Mr Nano's spokesman said: "The Prime Minister is safe but not in his office for reasons that are clear."

Gunmen declaring their loyalty to Mr Berisha's Democratic Party were seen breaking into parliament, while elsewhere in the city, opposition supporters seized control of the state television building. Mr Berisha used the opportunity to broadcast a repeat of his demands for Mr Nano and his government to resign.

Groups of armed men gathered on the streets while cars

BY PAUL WOOD
Balkans Correspondent

with automatic rifles jutting from the windows drove up and down.

It was the second day of violence in the capital. Armed rioting by Democratic Party supporters began at the weekend after one of their leaders, Azem Hajdari, was shot dead by men dressed in police uniforms.

On Sunday, Mr Berisha, claimed that the government had organised Mr Hajdari's murder and demanded that Mr Nano resign within 24 hours.

At least 10,000 opposition supporters gathered for Mr Hajdari's funeral yesterday. Mr Berisha called for calm, but repeated his accusations. Trouble began after the funeral procession apparently attempted to take the coffin into government headquarters.

Eyewitnesses report that there was then an intense exchange of fire. The Socialist gov-



Opposition supporters protesting on a tank seized from the government in Martyrs of the Nation, Tirana's main street, yesterday Arben Celi

ernment put tanks and armoured personnel carriers on the streets, but opposition supporters commandeered several of the vehicles and it was not clear last night which side was really in control of the capital.

As the crisis deepened, the President, Rexhep Mejdani, held emergency meetings with parliamentary deputies, seemingly with a view to forming a new coalition government. If that happens, it will be a repeat

of last year when an armed insurrection saw the Democratic Party ejected from power. There were fears yesterday of full-scale civil war.

The Socialists have denied any involvement in Mr Hajdari's

death. To most independent observers it seems unlikely that the Socialists would risk provoking violence by ordering the assassination of an opponent.

The government's supporters mutter that Mr Berisha himself

was to blame, or at the very least will take advantage of the killing. "He is determined to resume office at any price," said one long-standing Tirana political insider and critic of Mr Berisha, "even if that means civil war."

Schröder deflated by poll setback

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

THERE WAS a new spring in Helmut Kohl's step, and an air of despondency hung over his opponents yesterday as politicians in Bonn digested the implications of Sunday night's conservative triumph in Bavaria.

Final results issued yesterday showed that, rather than gaining up to 4 percentage points as predicted, the Social Democrats had lost votes to the Christian Social Union in the elections to the Bavarian assembly. With the help of Gerhard Schröder's misguided campaigning, their result was 1 per cent lower than four years ago, when the national party was in a shambles.

Mr Schröder, who was looking forward to moving into the chancellery in two weeks' time, could not conceal his disappointment. "I don't need to underline that the Bavarian elections did not fulfil our hopes," he said.

Chancellor Kohl was visibly relieved. "We are full of fighting spirit and willing to fight for every vote," he said. "The general election has not been decided, whatever the polls say."

The polls are saying: three point advantage for the Social Democrats. But it has become a noticeable trend that in all but one regional elections - in Mr Schröder's Lower Saxony earlier this year - the pollsters overestimated the SPD's final score by 4 or 5 per cent.

The left can take comfort from the confirmation of the Greens as the third biggest party in the country, replacing Mr Kohl's allies, the Free Democrats. They vanished without trace in the Bavarian poll. If the Free Democrats fail to clear the 5-per-cent hurdle to the Bundestag on 27 September, Mr Kohl's days as Chancellor are over, no matter how well his own party does.

French rediscover the taste for home-grown soap

FOR THE first time in 30 years, French television has its own home-grown serial to match the gripping banalities of *Santa Barbara* or *EastEnders*.

The inaugural 26-minute episode of *Cop des Pins*, an everyday story of Breton millionaires, was shown on the publicly owned France 2 channel last night. It tells the story of the Chantreuil family - a cruel and rapacious father; a

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

down-trodden, ineffective mother; and grown-up children with divided loyalties.

If that sounds strangely and depressingly familiar, it is not surprising. The last French-made television series to in any way resemble a soap opera ended in the late 1960s. The scriptwriters and executives

for *Cop des Pins* were dispatched to the United States, Britain, Germany and other soap-making countries to study the secrets of the lost art.

They came to the conclusion that a soap episode consists of three simple, slow-moving scenes, with an absolute maximum of five. A typical story-line over two weeks might be as follows: Things are not going well between Romeo and Juliet;

Romeo's father's factory closes down; Tristan and Isolde discuss the problems of Romeo and Juliet; things are not going well between Tristan and Isolde...

The French researchers concluded that soaps reflect the countries in which they are made. In British soaps, almost all the action, or inaction, takes place in pubs. In American soaps, everyone has just been

to the hairdresser's - even the down-and-outs.

They are determined to give *Cop des Pins* a French flavour. The first indications were that the characters will be more interestingly dressed than those in American soaps; and that they will eat more often and better than the characters in *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders*.

One of the scriptwriters of

Cop des Pins, Cathy Pierre, said the series will be "very French and not entirely a soap".

Simone Harari, the producer (who studied with the producer of *Santa Barbara*), says soaps are the perfect expression of modernity. "They are not challenging to watch, but they are very challenging to make."

The rediscovery of soaps in France is partly a response to

criticism of the high proportion of foreign drama on French television. French-made light entertainment programmes consist mostly of quiz shows, variants of *It's A Knock-out* and some detective series.

There is no French sit-com, but that vacuum will be filled shortly. The cable network, Canal Plus, is making three sit-coms based on American models, and two air next month.

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Taliban seize 'idolatrous' Buddha icons

FEARS ARE growing for the fate of two giant statues of Buddha in central Afghanistan after the region in which they stand was seized at the weekend by the country's fundamentalist Islamic militia.

The two 200ft-high statues dominate the horizon above the trenches and bunkers being dug in Bamian, which the Taliban overran last weekend.

Recognised by archaeologists as one of the greatest construction works of antiquity, the Buddhas of Bamian were hewn from rough sandstone about 1,800 years ago.

At least one Taliban commander has pledged to destroy them, saying such representations were idolatrous and offensive to Islam.

He has been overruled by more moderate Taliban officials but the murder of nine Iranian diplomats by Taliban troops last month shows the Taliban leaders often have difficulty controlling their more extreme elements.

Until the weekend, Bamian was held by the opposition Hezb-i-Wahdat faction. With the veteran commander Ahmed Shah Masood's stronghold in the north-east, it was one of the last areas outside the Taliban's control. With its fall on Sunday the opposition forces are in almost total disarray.

The fate of the statues may be affected by the Taliban need

BY JASON BURKE
in Islamabad

for international recognition. Many realise that the destruction of the Buddhas would play badly on the global stage.

Presently only three nations - Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - have recognised the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. The country's seat at the United Nations is still held by Burhanuddin Rabbani, the ousted president.

Last year the UN, prompted by leaders of Buddhist countries, called on the Taliban to respect the Bamian monuments. They were assured by senior officials in Kandahar - the southern Afghan city that is the headquarters of the Taliban - that the Koran obliged them to respect the holy places of other faiths.

A strong faction within the Taliban, however, believes they are now conducting a *Jihad* (Holy War). "One effect of the recent American missile strikes has been to radicalise the Taliban. They feel that Islam is under threat and that attacks against any target deemed to be non-Islamic is justified," said Kamaal Khan, a Pakistani political analyst.

Iran has deployed 200,000 troops on the western frontier of Afghanistan, ostensibly for military exercises. The Taliban

have reinforced their defences, distributed weapons to local villagers, moved about 25,000 troops to the border and deployed 30 mid-range rockets and 16 Stinger missiles.

The recent crisis, brought to a head by the killing of the Iranian diplomats, has its roots in the complex system of alliances. Iran, dominated by Shia Muslim clerics, has supported the Shia Hezb-i-Wahdat faction against the Sunni Muslim Taliban. The leader of the Hezb-i-Wahdat fled Bamian on Sunday to Iran.

Iran is demanding that the Taliban apologise for the murder of the diplomats and send their killers to Iran for trial. So far the Taliban have refused. Neither have the Taliban responded to requests for the release of a further 30 Iranians held prisoner in Kandahar.

There have been reports that retreating Hezb-i-Wahdat fighters massacred dozens of Taliban prisoners in Bamian. Taliban sources claim that an Iranian general is training more than 12,000 Afghan refugees in four camps just inside the border.

Never the less, the Taliban believe that the Iranians are merely sabre-rattling. "They know that to attack would unify the whole of Afghanistan against them and risk war in the whole region," said one senior Taliban.



Children of persecuted Hizara before one Buddha Robert Tuttle and Robert Bain

George Wallace of Alabama dies

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

GEORGE WALLACE, the former Southern segregationist who made two runs for the White House before being paralysed by a would-be assassin's bullet in 1972 and renouncing his racist views, died on Sunday at the age of 79.

Wallace, who served four terms as governor of Alabama between 1963 and 1987 in addition to his bids for the presidency, died in hospital in the state capital, Montgomery, after a long illness. Flags at the state capitol and governor's mansion were at half-mast yesterday as tributes flowed in from Southern politicians.

The former president Jimmy Carter issued a statement that praised Wallace for changing his attitude to civil rights. "Alabama and the American South have lost one of their favourite sons," Mr Carter said. "His career helped define and reflect the political life of

our region." Wallace, a powerful orator and instinctive populist, won almost 10 million votes and carried five states in the 1968 election. But his apogee came in early 1972, as he moved to the front of the Democratic field for the nomination that year before being shot while campaigning at a shopping centre in Maryland.

Though he survived, he was paralysed from the waist down and spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair, frequently in great pain.

His political conversion began in the mid 1970s. By the time he embarked on his last political campaign for Alabama governor in 1982, he acknowledged to a black audience that "segregation was a mistake" and that "the old South is gone".

Obituary, Review, page 6

IN BRIEF

Murdoch accused of blocking film

RUPERT MURDOCH cancelled plans for a controversial television movie because the subject was a friend of his, the *New York Times* has reported. The film, for Fox Television, was to have examined the career of Clarence Thomas, the black conservative US Supreme Court Justice accused of sexual harassment by Anita Hill. The film was to be based on a book, *Strange Justice*, by two *Wall Street Journal* reporters.

'Cuban spies' arrested in Miami

TEN PEOPLE have been arrested in Miami on charges of spying for Cuba. Leaders of Cuban exile organisations said it was related to an incident in 1996 when two aircraft flown by the exile group Brothers to the Rescue were shot down by Cuban MiGs, killing four people.

Bosnian poll hailed as triumph

BOSNIA'S ELECTIONS were hailed as the most successful since Bosnia's war ended three years ago. Turn-out in the two days of voting was 78 per cent of the 2.7 million registered voters. The election pitted hard-line ethnic parties that oppose the 1995 Dayton peace agreement's goal of a non-ethnic unitary state against more moderate ethnic leaders who support the peace treaty.

Budapest in EU expansion talks

HUNGARIAN DISCUSSIONS on European Union membership are expected to begin in November, the Prime Minister, Viktor Orban, said in Vienna. Earlier this year, the former Communist countries of Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Estonia, along with Cyprus, were selected to take part in the latest round of EU expansion talks.

Indonesian military chief warns of collapse

THE HEAD of Indonesia's armed forces said unrest may lead to the fall of the government and even the country's collapse, as demonstrations, riots and looting raged in several cities. "The demands of these groups... can shake this legitimate government and break up the nation's unity, which could lead to disintegration," said General Wiranto, who is also Defence Minister. He was speaking to parliament after a fortnight of growing discontent with the government of President B.J. Habibie, who replaced President Suharto after similar unrest in May.

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

In Medan, in Sumatra, shops owned by Chinese families were stoned after a demonstration lured out of control. Bus and taxi drivers and students protested at the provincial government office over the price of spares, driven up by the collapse of the rupiah last year and the subsequent economic crisis. Dozens of people were arrested after

gangs ran through the town, looting. There were lesser disturbances in the Sumatran city of Jambi as well as on the island of Sulawesi and in Semarang, in Central Java.

The Minister for Food, A.M. Saefuddin, was quoted in a newspaper yesterday as admitting that 17 million of the country's 202 million people

do not have enough to eat. "The urban poor are especially vulnerable. In many rural areas, people are more used to hardship and can seek alternative ways to cope. Those who demonstrate or loot are usually the urban poor."

The IMF, which has bailed out the economy, recently announced measures to help Indonesia to relieve the crisis, including tax breaks on rice, to reduce food shortages.

Anti-Chinese riots, which have broken out across the country this year, often start with rumours that a particular shopkeeper has been hoarding rice to sell it later at inflated prices.

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Lepers at Wangdu clinic, near Peking, which is also a refuge for cured patients classified as 'aged and vulnerable'

Teresa Poole

China rebuffs UN on rights

"I AM NOT a comfortable presence for the Chinese authorities and that is understandable, because they have many problems and many violations," said Mary Robinson, the first United Nations Human Rights Commissioner to visit China.

Yesterday, in a 90-minute meeting, she heard President Jiang Zemin repeat China's argument that lifting people out of poverty was the country's priority - and responded by telling him that protecting civil liberties was just as important.

During her 10-day trip, which ends today, Mrs Robinson has sought to open a process of engagement with China, a country where human-rights abuses are still commonplace but where the past two decades has also seen improvements in personal freedoms and living standards.

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

She "emphasised the importance of human rights, not just for peace and security, but also for economic development," said her spokesman, Jose Diaz. She did not raise individual cases with Mr Jiang but had pressed Chinese and Tibetan officials for information on political prisoners.

Details of the visit, which she has described as "difficult", will emerge today, when Mrs Robinson finally talks to the press.

During her two-day visit to Tibet, which was the most sensitive leg of the trip, she refused to visit a prison, after letting it be known that she feared reprisals against prisoners.

On a visit to a monastery, Mrs Robinson asked to meet a

veteran dissident monk, Yulo Dawa Tsering, who was arrested after speaking to a UN human-rights team in 1994.

Her request was not granted by the Chinese. She also asked officials in Tibet of the whereabouts of nine-year-old Gendun Choekyi Nyimi, who was named by the Dalai Lama in 1995 as the new Panchen Lama.

She received no answer. "It's not ever a case of getting instant answers. I regard this as the start of a continuing process," she said.

China's former president Yang Shangkun died yesterday aged 92, state media reported. A ranking general, Yang had played a crucial role in the suppression of the democracy demonstrations that swept China in the spring of 1989.

Obituary, Review, page 6

Cure gives little joy to victims of leprosy

FOR THE past decade the furthest 75-year-old Hou Jingyao has ventured from his room is the one mile to the village market. For a long time before that, he went nowhere; the gates of the grey-brick walled compound in Wangdu County were locked. Even after the padlocks were thrown away, the outside world seemed an inhospitable place. Looking at his destroyed fingers, his missing toes, his weakened leg and the sores on his skin, he swore: "This damned disease! I don't know how I got it. Since I got leprosy I have had very few moments of happiness."

Mr Hou started his stay at Wangdu's leprosy clinic in 1960. Until the mid-1980s China's policy was to lock lepers in rural hospitals or isolate them in "leprosy villages", releasing them only if several years' treatment cured them. Liu Shuangzhan, director at Wangdu clinic, said: "We had various gates: one for staff, one for patients who were received, another for when the patient died and one gate for when they were cured."

Those who were cured were often so disfigured they chose to remain rather than be ostracised in their villages. From the mid-1980s, when multi-drug therapy (MDT) offered a quick, permanent cure, China abandoned its policy of isolating lepers.

But the likes of Wangdu were much-needed refuges from the difficulties of life outside. Older, disfigured residents such as Mr Hou stayed on. Wangdu is only three hours by a new highway from Peking but for many of the 38 residents the only experience of a fast-modernising China has been via television. Mr Hou arrived in 1960, was released in 1974, but returned in 1980. "I just listen to the radio and watch television," he said. "My relatives visit twice a year."

This month Peking hosted the 15th International Leprosy Conference, attended by 1,000 delegates working to stamp out leprosy worldwide by 2000. The World Health Organisation estimates there are 1 million cases globally, two-thirds in South-East Asia. It is not very contagious but is a stubborn disease: 500,000 cases are diagnosed each year. Unless treated promptly, nerve injury leads to loss of feeling in the hands and feet, rendering them vulnerable to injury and infection. It also attacks the eyes and causes muscle weakness and paralysis.

In the first half of this century, lepers in China were still being buried alive, floated out to sea to die or abandoned on islands. Since 1949 China has had great success combating the disease, albeit at the expense of individual liberty. The rate has fallen from 2.4 per 10,000 in 1958 to 0.033 per

BY TERESA POOLE
in Wangdu County

10,000 last year. After 1987 the situation was transformed by MDT drugs, which can cure leprosy in two years. The number of cases under active treatment fell to 4,045 last year and about 2,000 new cases are diagnosed annually.

For some in China, multi-drug therapy came too late. Yin Dakui, vice-minister for health, told the conference that China had 120,000 disabled cured lepers, of whom about 20,000 were "aged and vulnerable". He Daxun, at the China Leprosy Association, said there were 20 to 30 "leprosy villages" and more than 40 hospitals housing cured patients.

Wangdu, which opened in 1954, had 230 patients at its peak in 1962. It is a walled compound, surrounded by cornfields. Inside, buildings are divided into sparsely furnished, one-room dwellings and the gardens are planted with vegetables and grain.

Of the 38 residents, 25 are elderly, cured patients. Liu Huirong, 66, said: "I came here in 1957. It was sad to be isolated, not a pleasant feeling. I was cured in 1966 and went home. But people in my county were very afraid of me. When they saw me they took a roundabout way." She returned in 1978 after the death of her husband and two of their children in an earthquake. "Life is better here," she said. Her neighbour, seeing a rare visitor, turned away, to hide her absent hands and half-missing face.

The younger generation is luckier. Huang Lying, 34, is Wangdu's youngest patient. The disease was caught before any disability occurred, and next year she should be able to return to her village. Many new victims can also be treated as out-patients or at home.

Conditions are basic and most of the 25 cured but disabled old residents are in ragged clothes. Seeing 66-year-old Xu Diangang's room and unwashed bedclothes, it is easy to understand how infections set in. But, knowing life outside would be worse, the patients are grateful.

"If there is a clinic, we can live several extra years. If there is no clinic, maybe we would just die," Mr Xu said.

The aged residents fear the clinic might close as the number of patients falls. This is partly due to a misunderstanding. "We have seen the slogan which says leprosy will be eradicated by 2000. We are afraid... there will be no more clinics. And we will have no place to go," Mr Hou said, as staff tried to reassure him it will be years before China can close its leprosy clinics.

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South African farmers are armed to the teeth after more than 500 murders since 1994

Sipa

White farmers in fear of the killers

CECIL FRAUENSTEIN's last words were in Xhosa. "Ndenzeni kuni embi ndizeleleni... What harm have I done you?" cried the 66-year-old farmer as five black teenagers finished him off with knives.

His son Craig, 30, muses over his father's final sentence, heard by a farm labourer who saw the brutal killing. "He was a poor man," he says, gazing at the small plot that is part junkyard, part farm where his father was murdered last weekend. "He struggled all his life to give us an education. What is hardest for me is the way he died."

The attack on Cecil Fraustein was so vicious his nose was almost severed. "I cleaned up the blood," Craig says. He identified the body to shield his mother and twin sisters from the grim necessity. Mr Fraustein was one of three white farmers murdered

BY MARY BRAID
in Eastern Cape

in the Eastern Cape in the past two weeks. George Wylie, 76, was shot in bed at Grahamstown. When his son Peter, who found his body, tried to talk about the murder on national radio two days later, he broke down, howling like a wounded animal. The day before George Wylie was killed, Jacobus "Bokkie" Human, 46, who farmed at nearby Paterson, was gunned down by four men posing as cattle buyers. More than 500 white farmers have been murdered in 2,400 attacks on farms since South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994. Almost without exception their attackers were black. Since January, more than 100 farmers and their relatives have been killed. Farmers in Kwa Zulu Natal are

threatening to withhold their taxes, others threaten to take the law into their own hands. A worried President Mandela will host a summit on the killings early next month. The farmers say the attacks are politically inspired. Two government-sponsored reports claimed the attacks were principally criminal. Those conclusions seem dubious, given that farmers have evicted thousands of tenants in advance of new legislation giving farm workers tenure rights. Dr Piet Gous, president of the Free State Agricultural Union and a right-wing Freedom Front MP, scoffs at the notion that crime alone lies behind the killings. "Why then, do they break in when no one is home and wait up to eight hours to kill the farmer?" Others point to the military precision of some attacks.

Craig Fraustein finds it hard to believe that there is no racial element when five black youths beat, kick and stab an old white man to death. The white farmers accuse President Mandela of doing too little. More radical black parties, who say nothing has changed for blacks in post-apartheid South Africa, accuse him of pandering to whites. Why has Mr Mandela never called a farm labourers' summit, Nkosi Molala asked in a Soweto newspaper, when they are routinely tied to trees by their employers or used as shooting practice? He said white farmers were "digging their own graves". Derek Hanekom, the ANC land affairs minister, suggested that "poor relations" between farmers and workers were factors in the crisis. Such talk, says Mr Gous, inflames the "illiterates in squatter camps". Relations between white farmer and blacks employees are fine, he insists. That is not the way many blacks tell it. "I was raised on a farm," says Lungile, 30. "The farmers paid us poorly and children had to leave school and work if a parent died. Otherwise families would be kicked off the land." In one respect he and Mr Gous agree. "I am sure the attacks are 80 per cent revenge. There is so much bad feeling here.

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A beautiful job centre, shame about the work

STREET LIFE

SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

SERGEI ZHURAVLYOV, a qualified aircraft engineer, was tired of going into work sitting around doing nothing and not getting paid. Bravely, he declared himself redundant and signed on last week at the job centre.

"We are here to give hope," said Anatoly Figida, head of the job centre in Moscow's Taganka district. "We do have jobs to offer."

Housed in a newly renovated 19th-century mansion, with computers in every office, it was a far cry from the grubby office with card indexes I visited five years ago.

I had gone to the job centre to find a fallen Russian yuppie. In the latest economic crisis, banks have been laying off staff, but hurt bankers crawl away to lick their wounds and then network for new jobs rather than sign on.

"So far, the effects of the crisis have not fed through to us," Mr Figida said. "You won't find any bosses here, certainly not Viktor Chernomyrdin," he joked in reference to the Prime Minister who had just lost his job.

Indeed, of the 800 registered at this job centre, 556 were women. Only 41 were in their twenties or younger. Most job-seekers were middle-aged.

In Mayor Yuri Luzhkov's Moscow, the unemployed are initially not much worse off than those still in work. They get their legal entitlement to 75 per cent of their former income in the first three months and are offered opportunities for retraining. Most Moscow enterprises still pay regularly into a state fund for the unemployed.

in Moscow stands at 0.7 per cent, but in fact thousands of people are only going through the motions of work.

"Lately, there's been nothing to do at work," said Galina Silina, 47. She has spent most of her working life in a "Beriozka" (Little Birch Tree) shop, one of the stores that in Soviet times sold goods for hard currency to foreigners.

Counsellor Valentina Makarova keyed Galina's details into her computer. "Job in a supermarket near Kashirskaya Metro; no, they want somebody under 35."

"Experience used to be everything," Galina said. "Now it counts for nothing."

"Job selling ice-cream from a kiosk," offered Valentina. "No way," said Galina. "It'd be cold in winter. The Beriozka was nice. We used to get a good class of people in there."

Sergei Zhuravlyov, the aircraft engineer, knew that at 49 his opportunities were limited. Valentina looked down lists of general clerical jobs. They were all for younger people and computer skills were essential.

"Look," Sergei said. "I really just need to earn money. I'll do anything. I can't go on with my wife keeping the family."

At that, Valentina printed out for him the details of a job loading and unloading at a market, at a salary of 800 roubles (about £36). "Is that a job for a family man with higher education?" she said after he had left. "If I'm to be honest, all we are doing here is offering the illusion of hope."

On paper, unemployment

HELEN WOMACK

Not wonderful, but better than most

A WEEK in Tokyo helps put the problems of the rest of the world in perspective. While the relative decline in economic activity has been much greater in Indonesia, Russia and now, it seems, Brazil, the absolute decline has been far greater in Japan than anywhere else in the world.

The scale and nature of the Japanese recession is discussed in the second section of this paper, but the experience of seeing the concern of the Japanese business community does not just put our quite modest troubles in perspective. It also puts into perspective the rolling recession into which the world seems to be sliding.

Seen from London what has been happening in Japan ought to have been the most serious shock the world economy has experienced. The collapse of the East Asian emerging market economies was both dramatic and painful.

A large chunk of the middle class will have seen their savings wiped out. But without in any way trying to minimise the human and political importance of this catastrophe, from a world economic viewpoint it did not seem to matter very much.



HAMISH MCRAE

The easiest way to understand the links is that each crash is just 'one more damn thing'

The East Asian emerging economies were dazzling performers, but most of them were tiny. Their weight in terms of world output was too small to affect the whole.

competitors, and the extent to which Japanese banks had financed their expansion. But even allowing for all that, the decline ought not to have hit Japan as hard as it has.

So what happened? I think the easiest way to understand both the link between emerging East Asia and Japan, and the links between the collapses in Russia and Brazil and the rest of the world is that each crash is "one more damn thing".

If we do indeed have a full world recession over the next two to three years - as opposed to the partial world recession which is happening now - it will be because each bit of bad news, while unimportant in isolation, takes on seismic importance when piled on top of another.

Last month it was Russia that tipped the US markets from concern into terror. Russia itself does not matter in economic terms, though of course it remains vital in geopolitical and military terms.

But people started adding up the sums and realising that if you wrote off the full debts owed to many international banks you wiped out a large portion of their year's profits. Then they thought, wait a minute,

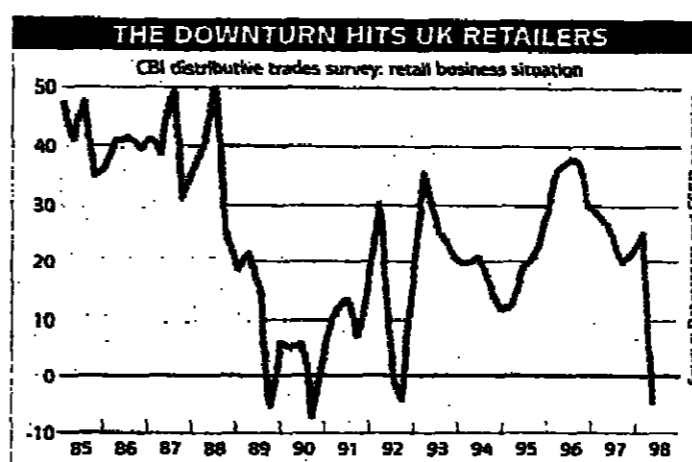
we ought to do the same sort of calculation for other dodgy external debts, like Brazil or Venezuela.

It may be irrational for the currency crisis of Russia to spread to Latin America - the only real parallel is that both regions face explosive political situations - but that is what seems to have happened. Add up the doubtful debts and suddenly the position of perfectly solid banks looked decidedly unpleasant.

Now I am not saying that there is a generalised global banking crisis, as there is in Japan. But banks the world over are going to be very careful in their lending for the next three or four years, maybe longer. This is one indication of a change in the global investment mood, a change that the London economics team of HSBC has called "a new sobriety".

There is nothing wrong with being sober. Indeed, had the world banking and investment community been rather more sober over the past three years the East Asian boom would have been more muted and the scale of the subsequent collapse less grave.

The difficulty is that an excess of sobriety is almost as destructive to the world economy as an excess of



excess. If we do experience a rolling world recession, where each bit of bad news is piled on top of the last so that finally even the relatively solid economies of North America and western Europe are ground down, then the financial system will have to take its share of the blame. How does Britain appear through the prism of these newly sober market operators? Three factors seem to distinguish the UK economy at the moment.

The first is that thanks to the much-reviled surge in interest rates, we may have managed to chip the top off the boom. Sure, manufacturing has had a miserable time, but that was collateral damage in the effort to curb the services' boom. In the past month or so it has seemed the service side is heading down a bit too. We are no longer such a dual economy. The sentiment of retailers (see chart) has now fallen to the same sort of level that it was at during the last recession.

mean that there is beginning to be a domestic case for interest rate cuts.

Second, we still have some inflation so that by cutting nominal interest rates it is possible to cut real rates. In a world of deflation and falling prices, cutting interest rates is pushing on a string, for you may simply find that prices fall even faster, so real rates do not fall at all. Given the close link between short-term interest rates, house prices and domestic demand, we may be better placed to pump up demand should the rolling recession roll over us.

And third, we still retain policy freedom - in fact, we probably have more room for manoeuvre than any other G7 country, including the US. We can cut rates and try and reduce the exchange rate. We have a sound fiscal position and so we could try to boost demand that way. And we have a relatively flexible economy, unlike continental Europe and Japan, which ought to respond to policy changes.

It is not a bad position to be in, if as sadly looks more likely by the week, the world economy does continue to deteriorate. Not wonderful, just better than most.

Tougher code for banks is open to abuse

BANKING CUSTOMERS were yesterday warned that a new code designed to protect them from unfair practices contained loopholes that left it open to abuse by high street banks.

The country's banks and building societies yesterday launched a tougher banking code which claims to stamp out abuses such as lowering interest rates on existing savings accounts while failing to tell customers of new accounts with better rates.

The code was introduced after a furious protest by customers of Northern Rock, the newly converted building society. Customers were shocked to learn they had been switched into new accounts with different notice periods and, in many cases, lower interest rates. Some banks are also alleged to have told staff not to let customers know about new accounts with better interest rates, allowing them to pay lower interest to millions of customers on accounts they deemed "obsolete". The practice, known as portfolio management, can save banks millions of pounds a year.

The code claims to ban the use of obsolete accounts. It re-

quires banks to raise interest rates on existing accounts to the same level as a new account - but only if it is "similar" to the old one. If it is not similar, they must write to customers offering the opportunity to switch.

But industry figures warned that banks can circumvent the rules by tweaking the terms on new accounts so they are not "similar". Customers may also fail to respond to letters about the terms of their accounts.

Brian Davis, chief executive of Nationwide, said: "The danger is that it will legitimise the use of obsolete accounts. Because you have written to people and told them you have done it, it will be considered OK. But the principle is that you shouldn't do it in the first place."

Although the code was welcomed as "a step forward", others also warned it could be abused in practice.

David Anderson, chief executive of Yorkshire building society, said banks and building societies "must go with the spirit as well as the letter of the code. Some people will try it on but I am sure people will be watching."

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IN BRIEF

Asian downturn forces Morgan Crucible to sell division

MORGAN CRUCIBLE is to sell its specialty materials unit to focus on its carbon and ceramics businesses, the hi-tech equipment maker said yesterday. The Windsor-based maker of fire bricks, ceramics and carbon electronics equipment said the decision to sell the specialty division, which produces advanced lubricants, metalworking products and electronic components for the aerospace, nuclear, telecoms and military industries, followed the economic downturn in Asia, where Morgan has several units. Morgan Crucible shares rose 6p, or 2 per cent, to 301p, after the company reported a 3.5 per cent rise in first-half profits and said profit was likely to be higher in the second half, if only because of acquisitions.

Edinburgh development sold for £42m

MARLBORNE Warwick Balfour has bought Fountain Park from Scottish & Newcastle and TFI for £42m cash, the group announced yesterday. The Fountain Park commercial leisure development, currently under construction in the centre of Edinburgh, is 94 per cent pre-let to large tenants and is expected to generate annual rental income of approximately £2.9m, reflecting a prospective initial yield of 6.65 per cent. Marlbhone Warwick Balfour said.

Second French acquisition for Weir

WEIR GROUP, the world's sixth biggest pump-maker, has made its second bolt-on acquisition in France within a month, buying Schabaver from Sterling Fluid Systems for Fr47m (£5m). Weir said Schabaver and its associated company, Fabrimex, would complement the slurry pump operations of its EnviroTech Pumpsystems unit. Last month it paid Fr60m for Sebim Holding, a family-owned valve and actuator manufacturer. Weir said the Schabaver deal would increase its manufacturing network to 30 plants in 14 countries.

Slumberland group raises £524,000

FRENCH, the soft furnishing group which makes Slumberland bed products, is to place 1.31 million shares to raise £524,000, it said yesterday. The shares have been privately placed with investors at 40p per ordinary share. The placing, subject to shareholder approval, would enable it to develop its UK businesses, reduce borrowings and provide additional working capital, the group said. It also said the loss declared at the interim stage would increase because of provisions.

Vanguard Medica shares fall

SHARES IN Vanguard Medica fell 10p to 320p after it said it intended to stop developing two psoriasis treatments, the compounds, VML 295 and VML 282. Vanguard said its decision followed a re-evaluation of the commercial potential of these compounds on completion of phase two studies.

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MARKET LEADERS							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm							
Bank	Vol.	Bank	Vol.	Bank	Vol.	Bank	Vol.
Teaco	29.89	Alkath Zurich	22.50	Bank Paraden	10.00	Lyons TSB	9.46
Telecom	29.27	ETP	9.46	Libertel	10.00	Wolfgang	9.46
Telecom	29.27	ASDC	9.46	Nat Weststrat	9.46		
Telecom	29.27	ASDC Hldg	9.46	Luxemburg	9.46		
Telecom	29.27	Parosel Invest	9.46	Bank Alanya	9.46		
Telecom	29.27	Emetel Energy	9.46	Bank Alps	9.46		

TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5p

[illegible]

HOUR BY HOUR

[illegible]

179.5	0.0	4.2	-	5248	46	16	Pacific Horizon
34.8	1.3	-	-	2406	308	252	Pantheon Int'l
7.0	0.0	-	-	3425	141	72	Past Egg

[illegible]

223.5	1.0	2.2	-	2111	541	101	Scott Easton
165.0	x 1.5	1.3	-	1219	385	280	Scott West
87.3	1.3	2.6	-	1225	401	264	Scott Wong

118	81 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	382	107	81 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
119	82 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	383	108	82 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
120	83 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	384	109	83 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
121	84 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	385	110	84 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
122	85 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	386	111	85 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
123	86 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	387	112	86 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
124	87 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	388	113	87 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
125	88 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	389	114	88 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
126	89 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	390	115	89 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
127	90 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	391	116	90 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
128	91 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	392	117	91 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
129	92 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	393	118	92 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
130	93 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	394	119	93 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
131	94 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	395	120	94 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
132	95 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	396	121	95 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
133	96 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	397	122	96 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
134	97 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	398	123	97 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
135	98 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	399	124	98 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
136	99 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	400	125	99 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
137	100 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	401	126	100 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
138	101 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	402	127	101 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
139	102 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	403	128	102 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
140	103 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	404	129	103 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
141	104 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	405	130	104 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
142	105 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	406	131	105 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
143	106 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	407	132	106 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
144	107 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	408	133	107 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
145	108 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	409	134	108 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
146	109 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	410	135	109 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
147	110 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	411	136	110 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
148	111 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	412	137	111 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
149	112 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	413	138	112 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
150	113 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	414	139	113 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
151	114 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	415	140	114 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
152	115 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	416	141	115 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
153	116 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	417	142	116 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
154	117 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	418	143	117 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
155	118 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	419	144	118 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
156	119 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	420	145	119 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
157	120 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	421	146	120 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
158	121 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	422	147	121 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
159	122 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	423	148	122 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
160	123 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	424	149	123 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
161	124 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	425	150	124 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
162	125 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	426	151	125 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
163	126 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	427	152	126 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
164	127 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	428	153	127 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
165	128 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	429	154	128 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
166	129 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	430	155	129 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
167	130 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	431	156	130 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
168	131 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	432	157	131 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
169	132 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	433	158	132 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
170	133 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	434	159	133 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
171	134 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	435	160	134 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
172	135 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	436	161	135 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
173	136 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	437	162	136 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
174	137 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	438	163	137 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
175	138 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	439	164	138 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
176	139 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	440	165	139 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
177	140 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	441	166	140 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
178	141 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	442	167	141 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
179	142 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	443	168	142 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
180	143 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	444	169	143 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
181	144 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	445	170	144 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
182	145 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	446	171	145 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
183	146 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	447	172	146 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
184	147 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	448	173	147 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
185	148 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	449	174	148 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
186	149 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	450	175	149 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
187	150 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	451	176	150 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
188	151 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	452	177	151 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
189	152 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	453	178	152 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
190	153 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	454	179	153 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
191	154 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	455	180	154 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
192	155 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	456	181	155 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
193	156 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	457	182	156 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
194	157 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	458	183	157 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
195	158 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	459	184	158 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
196	159 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	460	185	159 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
197	160 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	461	186	160 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
198	161 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	462	187	161 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
199	162 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	463	188	162 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
200	163 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	464	189	163 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
201	164 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	465	190	164 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
202	165 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	466	191	165 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
203	166 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	467	192	166 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
204	167 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	468	193	167 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
205	168 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	469	194	168 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
206	169 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	470	195	169 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
207	170 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	471	196	170 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
208	171 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	472	197	171 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
209	172 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	473	198	172 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
210	173 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	474	199	173 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
211	174 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	475	200	174 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
212	175 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	476	201	175 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
213	176 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	477	202	176 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
214	177 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	478	203	177 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
215	178 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	479	204	178 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
216	179 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	480	205	179 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
217	180 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	481	206	180 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
218	181 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	482	207	181 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
219	182 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	483	208	182 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
220	183 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	484	209	183 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
221	184 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	485	210	184 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
222	185 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	486	211	185 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
223	186 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	487	212	186 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
224	187 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	488	213	187 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
225	188 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	489	214	188 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
226	189 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	490	215	189 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
227	190 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	491	216	190 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
228	191 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	492	217	191 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
229	192 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	493	218	192 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
230	193 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	494	219	193 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
231	194 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	495	220	194 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
232	195 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	496	221	195 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
233	196 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	497	222	196 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
234	197 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	498	223	197 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
235	198 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	499	224	198 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
236	199 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	500	225	199 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
237	200 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	501	226	200 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
238	201 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	502	227	201 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
239	202 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	503	228	202 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
240	203 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	504	229	203 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
241	204 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	505	230	204 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
242	205 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0	-	506	231	205 Graham Inc.	-	-	-	-
243	206 Cent Energy Inc.	85.5	1.0	2.0								

59.3	0.0	0.4	-	2084	125	36	Tongue Lagoon
119.5	0.8	0.5	-	2189	450	330	Thompson Cove

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4093	50 weeks	10 weeks	5 weeks	2 weeks	1 week	50 weeks	10 weeks	5 weeks	2 weeks	1 week
	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks
3227	179	37	22	10	5	3227	179	37	22	10
3228	179	37	22	10	5	3228	179	37	22	10
3229	179	37	22	10	5	3229	179	37	22	10
3230	179	37	22	10	5	3230	179	37	22	10
3231	179	37	22	10	5	3231	179	37	22	10
3232	179	37	22	10	5	3232	179	37	22	10
3233	179	37	22	10	5	3233	179	37	22	10
3234	179	37	22	10	5	3234	179	37	22	10
3235	179	37	22	10	5	3235	179	37	22	10
3236	179	37	22	10	5	3236	179	37	22	10
3237	179	37	22	10	5	3237	179	37	22	10
3238	179	37	22	10	5	3238	179	37	22	10
3239	179	37	22	10	5	3239	179	37	22	10
3240	179	37	22	10	5	3240	179	37	22	10
3241	179	37	22	10	5	3241	179	37	22	10
3242	179	37	22	10	5	3242	179	37	22	10
3243	179	37	22	10	5	3243	179	37	22	10
3244	179	37	22	10	5	3244	179	37	22	10
3245	179	37	22	10	5	3245	179	37	22	10
3246	179	37	22	10	5	3246	179	37	22	10
3247	179	37	22	10	5	3247	179	37	22	10
3248	179	37	22	10	5	3248	179	37	22	10
3249	179	37	22	10	5	3249	179	37	22	10
3250	179	37	22	10	5	3250	179	37	22	10
3251	179	37	22	10	5	3251	179	37	22	10
3252	179	37	22	10	5	3252	179	37	22	10
3253	179	37	22	10	5	3253	179	37	22	10
3254	179	37	22	10	5	3254	179	37	22	10
3255	179	37	22	10	5	3255	179	37	22	10
3256	179	37	22	10	5	3256	179	37	22	10
3257	179	37	22	10	5	3257	179	37	22	10
3258	179	37	22	10	5	3258	179	37	22	10
3259	179	37	22	10	5	3259	179	37	22	10
3260	179	37	22	10	5	3260	179	37	22	10
3261	179	37	22	10	5	3261	179	37	22	10
3262	179	37	22	10	5	3262	179	37	22	10
3263	179	37	22	10	5	3263	179	37	22	10
3264	179	37	22	10	5	3264	179	37	22	10
3265	179	37	22	10	5	3265	179	37	22	10
3266	179	37	22	10	5	3266	179	37	22	10
3267	179	37	22	10	5	3267	179	37	22	10
3268	179	37	22	10	5	3268	179	37	22	10
3269	179	37	22	10	5	3269	179	37	22	10
3270	179	37	22	10	5	3270	179	37	22	10
3271	179	37	22	10	5	3271	179	37	22	10

SnCo	32.5	0.0	1.6	-	1151	104	67	Thioglymeron
MMI	40.3	2.3	1.6	-	3432	277	167	TR Euro Guit
	81.0	1.5	6.9	-	7139	51	34	TR Power

[illegible]

Est	152.0	2.0	0.7	1465	23	12	Arroyo Lake
WCo	135.5	-1.0	3.7	6539	653	473	Pedern Village

[illegible]

1013.0	±10.5	3.6	-	2415	168	77	First Choice
120.0	0.5	2.7	-	3810	438	196	First Landing

[illegible]

51.5	1.3	2.0	-	1108	244	180	Amco/Amco
65.5	0.5	7.0	-	1455	235	124	Marl Ltd
892.5	12.0	1.8	-	1345	621	353	Marl & Cap...

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES												
1747 1750 5550	32 week		Stock	Price		Yld	Date	32 week		Stock	Price	Yld
	High	Low		High	Low			High	Low			
7689	<u>INDEX-LINKED</u>											
5332	205.89	885.60	Tp	16.75	8	208.77	1.32	364	104.50	96.68	Tp	14% 0
5263	206.11	945.2	Tp	16.75	8	208.77	1.90	363	104.50	96.68	Tp	14% 0
5276	123.21	592	Tp	16.4	4.375	0	123.21	1.73	608	104.6	111	7% 0
5712	129.29	59.20	Tp	16.1	1.0	0	24.63	36.93	10.70	9.578	0	7.6

Feb 1 1972 week

1083	74.40	65.90	Toy H. 25.00	20.62	2.56	369.00	74.7	875.07	87.06
1084	589.74	72.40	38.78	Toy H. 25.00	21.63	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06
1186	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1187	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1188	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1189	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1190	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1191	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1192	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1193	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1194	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1195	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1196	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1197	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1198	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1199	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1200	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1201	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1202	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1203	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1204	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1205	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1206	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1207	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1208	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1209	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1210	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1211	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1212	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1213	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1214	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1215	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1216	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
1217	1062.3	65.89	Toy H. 25.00	21.67	2.55	369.00	64.9	87.06	87.06
12									

VL 2.5 B	179.77	2.51	340	181.24	182.77	183.24
VL 2.5 20	180.86	2.49	339	181.12	182.43	183.12

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on 4% Perp	71 72	5 43	1995	103.00	102.00	104 7/8
SHORTS				103.98	103.98	74 7/8
				103.97	103.97	74 7/8

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on 9% 00	103.69	6.33	200	103.48	120.00	757
				109.21	103.05	757

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SPORT

Golf: Professional learning curve is proving a steep one for teenager who passed his Open test with flying colours

Graduate Rose goes back to school

BY ANDY FARRELL

GIVE TALENT the chance to perform without pressure and even on the greatest stage wonderful things can happen. Justin Rose showed exactly that at the Open. To finish fourth, the highest placing by an amateur for 45 years, was a brilliant achievement. Now for something completely different.

This morning, at the Nick Faldo-designed Chart Hills course near Biddenden in Kent, Rose starts the gruelling marathon that is the Qualifying School. This is one of sport's hardest schools. Around 600 players have entered, only 35 will get their tour cards giving them the right to play on the European tour next season.

It could take anything up to 12 rounds to achieve. The first stage, known as PQ1, takes place this week at five venues around the country. At each site 120 players will compete over 54 holes for around 10 spots into the finals in southern Spain in November.

Those that fail will go on to PQ2 in Spain in October for another three rounds. The finals themselves are played out over six rounds. Among the 180 players who tee off will be experienced pros who have failed to retain their cards from the main tour, those who make an annual pilgrimage but return to the mini-tours and regional PGA events, as well as those just starting out on their professional careers.

The 72-hole cut, which slices the field down to around 70, must be

PRO AND CONS

In his six events as a professional, Justin Rose has missed the cut each time:

Dutch Open	missed by 1
Scandinavian Masters	missed by 1
European Open	missed by 2
BAN International	missed by 7
European Masters	missed by 7
British Masters	missed by 5

made or nothing has been gained but a few mental scars. For those that remain but fail to get into the top 35, there is the consolation of a place on the Challenge Tour, where you can gain experience if not money.

Those at the top of the game, the ones battling out the great championships, still refer back to the 'Q' School and the early days on tour trying to make a cut - those who do not qualify after 36 holes do not receive a cheque - as the most pressure-filled times of their careers.

Rose has had a swift introduction. In his six tournaments as a professional, he has not yet played four full rounds. He has found out that when making the cut becomes your target, it is one that suddenly becomes elusive. Co-incidentally Raymond Russell, the Scottish professional who also tied for fourth place at Birkdale, has yet to make a cut since either.

This was not the case when Rose finished 44th at the Benson and Hedges International in May. He would also have sailed past the cut at the European Grand Prix in June had the tournament not been washed out by rain. Those performances had planted the seed in Rose and his family's minds of turning pro should he make the cut at the Open.

That Birkdale turned into so much more made the decision inevitable. It is hard to believe that it was a performance Rose will never repeat again, but his one advantage over many of the pros was his amateur experience of playing tough links courses in strong winds. For a start, the publicity assured Rose of gaining the



Rose among the thorns again. The teenager has found that missing fairways has been one of his biggest problems since he made the decision to turn professional

maximum of seven allowed invitations on the tour. Should he have earned around £50,000 and finished in the top 116 on the order of merit, there would have been no need of going to the Qualifying School.

Although he has one more invitation left, it looks like the easier route has been closed. "I always knew I had two chances," Rose said. "I knew it would be difficult to win the amount of money I needed from seven tournaments. In 20 years hopefully I'll look back and nobody will be able to say I didn't do it the hard way."

Now, though, it is crunch time. "This is more important than anything I have played so far," he said of PQ1. He has visited Chart Hills twice to familiarise himself with the venue. "It is a good test of golf but a fair test and that is all you can ask of a qualifying course."

Inevitably, Rose's confidence has taken a hit but he remains positive. "However disappointed you feel inside, you cannot show it on the outside," he said. "There are always positives, you just have to look hard enough for them. I am a stronger player than I was at the Open. You become a better player by going through the lows. It is difficult to put

your finger on why I haven't played well. I don't feel any different. I may be a professional but I am the same golfer."

Mentally, Rose admits to wandering a bit on the course and his driving has the same tendency. His percentage of fairways hit is too low. That does not mean he is in the trees all day. On a course like the Forest of Arden, where the straight-hitting

Colin Montgomerie won for the second time on Sunday, the fairways are narrow and to stray just a few feet off them is to find thick rough.

Did Rose, who turned 18 two weeks after the Open, leave the amateur ranks too young? In America, he would have gone to college on a scholarship for three or four years. Matt Kuchar, who starred at the US Masters and the US Open, thought

about turning pro but then decided to finish his last two years at university. Sergio Garcia, the 18-year-old British Amateur champion who finished joint 12th in the British Masters, will stay amateur until next April's US Masters.

Rose, the youngest to play in the Walker Cup at 17 last year, clearly felt he had learnt enough. Peter McEvoy, the England captain who almost

picked Rose for full international honours at the age of 14, felt he was too young, not just to play golf but to be a doctor or a policeman. The longevity of a golfing career is similar to non-sporting professions, and there is an apprenticeship to learn.

A year on the Challenge Tour, where only a handful do more than cover their costs in racing around Europe for low prize fund tourna-

ments, would be no bad thing. While disliked by British players who find it harder to get sponsorship than continentals, with the right backing the experience can be a rewarding one in terms of preparation for life on the main tour.

But to get on to the Challenge Tour is hard enough and those who don't get that far are left in the wilderness of mini-tours, where the players' entry fees provide the prize fund.

Golfing lore suggests that if you're good enough you'll make it eventually. It took Barry Lane, the Ryder Cup player, seven visits to the Qualifying School before establishing himself on tour. Others, like Jose Maria Olazabal and Lee Westwood, passed first time and never returned.

Wherever Rose ends up playing next year, he should have backing. Carnegie, his management company, report interest in the South African-born, Hampshire-raised player has not diminished despite the start to his pro career. The current asking price for a club contract is £1.5m. Rose has tried not to get involved. "All that matters is what I do on the golf course," he said. "If you do well, everything else takes care of itself."

FOUR AMATEURS WHO STRUGGLED TO MAKE THE GRADE

GORDON SHERRY

British Amateur champion in 1995 when he also starred in GB & Ireland's Walker Cup victory over the Americans and finished joint fourth in the Scottish Open at Carnoustie.

Turned pro after the US Masters in '96 but suffered from glandular fever and could not make his card from invitations. Finished 62nd and 84th in the Qualifying School in the last two years. Now playing the Challenge Tour.

ANDREW COLTART

Member of the 1991 Walker Cup team and then turned pro but was ill during the first stage of the Qualifying School. Spent a year playing on Swedish Tour, got his card at the Q

school but had to return in '93. Has since kept his card, played for Scotland in the World and Dunhill Cups and won his maiden title, the Qatar Masters in March.

WARREN BENNETT

Leading amateur at the Open in 1994 when hailed, like Rose, by the R and A secretary, Sir Michael Bonallack. Got through the Qualifying School at third attempt

in 1996 but then suffered neck injuries last year. Fit again, the 25-year-old from Watford has won five times on the Challenge Tour this season to secure his card on the main circuit for next year.

IAN GARBUTT

Turned pro in 1992 with a handicap of plus-two, two years after winning the English Amateur Championship. Won his card at the Qualifying School for '93 but finished 139th on the

order of merit with £26,715 to lose it again. After three failed attempts at the Q School, the Doncaster man won the Challenge Tour order of merit last year after winning the UAP Grand Final.

Emotions run high as Ferrari turn up heat

BY DERICK ALLSOP
in Monza

TWO RACES to go, everything to play for, and the contesting camps have taken over from their drivers as the struggle for the World Championship becomes a test of nerve as well as skill and reliability.

This nation is gripped by euphoria following Ferrari's one-two success in the Italian Grand Prix and Michael Schumacher's elevation to level points and wins with McLaren Mercedes' Mika Hakkinen. The Finn retains the lead only because he has two second places to Schumacher's one.

They resume racing combat at the Nurburgring, on Sunday week, but the off-circuit jousting is unre-

lenting and Jean Todt, Ferrari's sporting director, took the opportunity to apply a little more psychological pressure rather than wallow in the celebration and adulation.

"We've noticed every time we put McLaren under pressure it's gone well for us," Todt said. "McLaren were a bit quicker than us here and I think they still are, but they did not take advantage or use the potential of the car. Everything is open in the Championship now. Emotions here mean nothing. We have to live with reality and the reality is that Michael has six wins. I don't know when that was last done in a season by a Ferrari driver."

The answer is 1962, the driver Alberto Ascari. Schumacher, too, won-

dered aloud whether Hakkinen would survive the heat. "We make things difficult for him and keep him under pressure," the German said. "I'm not saying he is going to crack, but it was easier for him in the early part of the season. Now mistakes are more likely. He's been a good racing driver this season but we will see how he copes in the two races left."

Hakkinen, who has lost a 16 point advantage in the last three Grands Prix, admitted he was "nervous" and anxiety showed on the faces of his colleagues.

However, Ron Dennis, the McLaren team principal, made a defiant retort and an effort to restore confidence after their wretched race. David Coulthard's engine blew when he held a com-

fortable lead and Hakkinen, hampered by a brake problem, was lucky to salvage fourth place.

Dennis said: "If you can't take the heat you shouldn't be in the sport. These things happen. We're not wimps. Neither of our drivers is and we're going to fight all the way and put the pressure on them."

Schumacher is a highly talented and motivated driver but he's made mistakes this season and there's no reason why he won't make more mistakes. One spin from Michael or Mika in the next two Grands Prix can determine the World Championship.

"We're not walking away from Monza as losers, we're walking away leading the Constructors' Championship and equal in the Drivers' Championship. Let's deal

with facts and not the emotional situation."

"Obviously Ferrari's reliability is exceptional, but we're trying always to get a performance advantage. When you push things to the limit it's inevitable you stray into areas where unreliability can strike."

"Motor racing is not a sport for the faint-hearted. If you are fighting for the World Championship you've got to expect it to be difficult and that's what it is."

Schumacher will have home advantage and the added weight of expectation on Sunday week, but then so will Mercedes and Norbert Haug, the head of their Formula One operation, echoed Dennis's insistence they were not about to buckle. I feel really ashamed for what happened

to David," Haug said. "He came to me and apologised but I told him we're the ones who should apologise. Now the showdown is on and I can understand why Ferrari say we will crack, but the pressure will not break us. It is clear the problem we have had was technical, and no fault of the drivers. They made no mistakes, we did."

Damon Hill knows what it is like to be on the receiving end of Schumacher's pressure. He succumbed to it in 1994 and 1995, and is a captivated observer as his old adversary, aided by the former Benetton technical director, Ross Brawn, threatened to pull off a third title.

"The situation is unbelievable," said the Jordan driver, sixth on Sunday. "We all wrote off the Champion-

ship for anyone other than McLaren at the start of the season when they were having one-two. 'Whatever has gone wrong I don't know, but you just can't give someone like Ross Brawn and Michael Schumacher the slightest whiff of anything, or else.'

"I find it difficult to predict the outcome of the Championship but, although McLaren might have the advantage in machinery, you would have to say Ferrari have now got the edge in morale and that can go a long way."

The Championship can be decided at the Luxembourg Grand Prix only if Hakkinen wins and Schumacher falls to score. The more likely scenario is a last race decider in Japan, on 1 November.



SPORT



ROSE GOES BACK TO SCHOOL P24 • RESILIENT RAFTER P27

Gregory troubled by Villa's vacant front line

DESPITE HIS team's three-point lead in the Premiership, John Gregory admitted yesterday that Aston Villa were missing Dwight Yorke and pledged to carry on spending.

Gregory, preparing for a Uefa Cup first round, first leg match at home to the Norwegians of Strømsgodset tonight, acknowledged that Villa's scoring capacity did not match their defensive capabilities. While anticipating that Paul Merson would be influential in correcting the imbalance, he promised not to rest on his laurels.

FOOTBALL

By Phil Shaw

"I intend to keep strengthening the squad," Gregory said. "The great Liverpool side who won so many championships would always replace a couple of players. Arsène Wenger has done the same at Arsenal this year."

The Villa manager, who still has a transfer kitty of around £20m, is keeping the names of his targets to himself. Weekend reports suggested

he had tried to prise Alan Shearer from Newcastle, only to be told by Rudi Völler that the England captain is not for sale. Shearer could take his pick of English, Spanish and Italian clubs, but Villa's apparent interest is an indication of the quality the former Wycombe manager wants to attract. Gregory confirmed Villa had been on the trail of Sweden's Fredrik Ljungberg, watching him as recently as last Thursday. "Our concern was whether he would get into the team. We pressed the pause button and he went to Arsenal."

After his injudicious comments in the wake of Yorke's departure to Manchester United - "If I'd had a gun, I'd have shot him" - Gregory was in a conciliatory mood. "We're missing Yorke. I can't deny that. He gave us a hell of a lot going forward."

The prospect of the Champions' League was a key factor in Yorke's yearning for Old Trafford. "Playing for Trinidad & Tobago, he doesn't get the chance to perform before massive crowds at places like Juventus and Barcelona," Gregory said. "There are some big teams in the

Uefa Cup but it isn't quite the same." Villa are nonetheless anxious to enjoy another extended run after reaching the quarter-finals last spring. Being able to offer European football was a "selling point", according to Gregory, in wooing Alan Thompson from Bolton and Merson from Middlesbrough.

The former Arsenal player signed too late to be eligible tonight. In his absence - and that of Yorke, Savo Milosevic (also sold) and Stan Collymore (injured) from last year's campaign - Villa may deploy Ric-

cardo Scimeca as a striker. The centre-back has not scored in 70 games, yet a lack of options means Gregory either goes with Scimeca or gambles on a raw reserve such as Darius Vassell.

Strømsgodset lie ninth in the Norwegian League after a 4-0 defeat by Stabæk which took their goals against column to 58 in 23 matches. However, they possess Premiership experience in the former Chelsea defender Erlend Johnsen and the towering striker Jostein Flo, once of Sheffield United, and Gregory

believes they will raise their game just as Villa would in Madrid or Turin.

"We won't be taking this one lightly. We worked too hard to get into Europe to do that." He was referring to the run of nine wins in 11 matches following his appointment, a sequence Villa have carried over into the new season. So which was their priority, the Premiership or Europe? "We've got to look after our League form before we're masters of time, space and dimension," Gregory replied, tongue perhaps in cheek but ambitions there for all to see.

Johnson criticises Kendall signings

THE EVERTON chairman, Peter Johnson, yesterday launched a vigorous attack on the club's former manager, Howard Kendall, as he responded to charges of "gross mis-management" levelled against him at yesterday's annual general meeting.

One shareholder claimed the board had spent £100m in 10 years turning the club "from champs to chumps" and had still not found a goalscorer.

Many of Kendall's buys are still at Everton, with Don Hutchison, John Spencer, Gareth Farrelly, Carl Tiler and Michael Madar in the squad.

Kendall made cut-price signings while the fans bayed for Johnson to give him more funds to stop the slide towards rele-

By Alan Nixon

gation, but Johnson claimed yesterday he did not trust him to spend money wisely.

"It would have been totally wrong of me to release the purse strings last year and you know that," Johnson said. "Did you want Howard to spend all of that money on the type of players he brought in last season? I think you would have been appalled."

Meanwhile yesterday, supporters' groups urged the Premier League to reject Uefa plans to grant wild card entries to the Champions' League. European football's governing body, whose taskforce met in Geneva yesterday, has suggested granting automatic

entry to past winners. However, a Campaign Against The Super League spokeswoman said: "We've fought against a breakaway league, but a wild-card system has the same drawbacks."

"Fans can't stomach the thought of some clubs getting special privileges. A wild card would give clubs like AC Milan guaranteed entry for several years even if they were relegated in Italy."

Two Juventus midfielders, the Frenchmen Zinedine Zidane and Didier Deschamps, were yesterday called in for questioning by a prosecutor looking into alleged use of banned substances in Italy's Serie A. Neither player would be specific about what they

told the Turin prosecutor, Raffaele Guariniello, but both admitted that use of creatine, a legal muscle-builder, was discussed.

The Port Vale manager, John Rudge, is set to sign the Rangers winger Steven Boyack. Boyack joined Vale for talks and training yesterday after being told he does not figure in the Ibrox first-team plans.

Celtic's outgoing chairman, Fergus McCann, and the club's general manager, Jock Brown, came under fire at a stormy annual general meeting yesterday. McCann, who is set to leave Parkhead after completing five years in charge, had to reject criticism that he is more interested in making money than making Celtic successful.

Arcs of triumph in the pool



The 16-year-old Canadian swimmer, Kelly Stefanyshyn, is the last to touch the water as a heat of the women's 100 metres backstroke does a fair imitation of a line of plunging dolphins at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Stefanyshyn took silver in the final behind Australia's 15-year-old Gizaan Rooney, who finished in 1min 02.43 sec. England's Sarah Price was seventh and Helen Don-Duncan came in eighth.

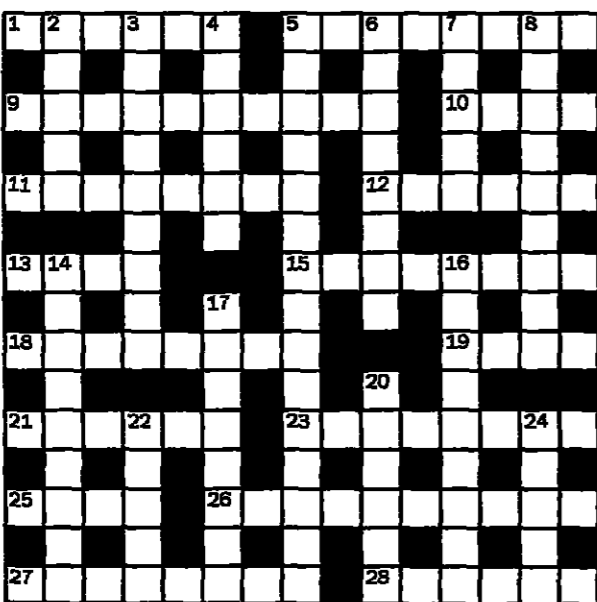
Reports, results, page 25; AFP

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3716, Tuesday 15 September

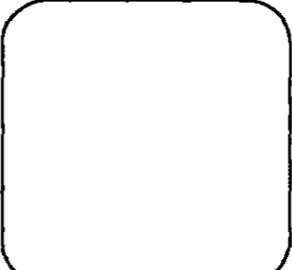
By Ashred

Monday's Solution



ACROSS
1 Where you'll find students making temporary home going to America (6)
5 Con men I'm confusing with memory trick (8)
9 Woman with line wanted applied varnish (10)
10 Spot agent following enemy initially (4)
11 Debility subsequently seen in the continent (8)
12 Artist and doctor on the French walk (6)
13 Slightly burn the tea (4)
15 Boy unknown on boat of post female (8)
18 Symbol of oppression used to be in a piece of equipment's back (8)
19 Very big game to be played (4)

DOWN
2 A bit of power given to the man's a pest (5)
3 Fish and chips to be cooked with lard (9)
4 Blenishes of army seen in instances of wickedness (6)
5 Lance Baker could do this to get right away (4,1,5,5)



Ferguson refuses to talk about Juve job

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, is refusing to be drawn on speculation that he has been targeted to manage the Italian giants Juventus.

A go-between acting on behalf of the Turin club has reportedly approached Ferguson to ask if he would be keen to succeed Marcello Lippi when he retires next summer.

However, Ferguson said: "I don't want to be drawn into things like that. We've got a big game against Barcelona on Wednesday and I don't want to distract from it."

The United chairman, Martin Edwards, said suggestions Ferguson would move to Italy are "a nonsense".

"We know Juventus very well and I know their vice-president, Roberto Bettagg, well," Edwards said. "I'm absolutely certain that if there was anything in it I would have heard from Juventus."

Lens effect, page 28

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09/09/98

TUESDAY REVIEW

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Sayonara

The year Japan went west

Fly in over the vast Tokyo plain or look out from any of the city's tall buildings and you can see more economic activity being physically created than you could from any other point on the globe. You are not just looking at the homes, offices and factories of 30 million people – the largest collection of human beings in one place in the world. You are also looking at the largest single unit of the global economy, which produces between 3 and 4 per cent of the world's economic output. In all our homes there will almost certainly be something that has been made, designed or marketed in the Tokyo region: a camera, a TV set, a roll of film.

If however, you were to look across Tokyo last week, as I did, you would be looking at something else. You would be looking at the world's biggest recession. Japan's boom has gone horribly wrong.

In absolute terms, nowhere else is so much economic activity being lost so fast. We had the latest figures last Friday. In the April/June quarter the Japanese economy contracted at an annual rate of more than 3 per cent. It is now down three quarters in a row, for the first time since the Second World War, and there is absolutely no recovery in sight. Other countries – Thailand, Indonesia, Russia – may be heading down even faster, but they are tiny by comparison. Japan's economy is second only to that of the US. What happens there matters to all of us.

Yet the astonishing thing to the visitor is that you catch very little hint of the recession in the streets of Tokyo. With the exception of the civil servants, almost everyone I spoke to is extremely gloomy not just about the economy but, more generally, about Japan's place in the world. However, the physical fabric seems as glibly

as ever. The streets are crowded, the shops are full of people, everyone seems as busy as they did in the bubble years of the late Eighties. The surface looks the same; the real difference is inside – inside people's heads and inside the often-concealed balance sheets of the companies and banks.

The easiest way to understand this is to think of two British houses side by side. One is owned outright by someone in a secure job. The other is owned by someone who mortgaged to the limit at the peak of the boom and may now be made redundant. Assume house prices have fallen by half. The two houses look identical, but while the person in the first house may be disappointed by the loss of its value, the person in the second will be in despair. Much of Tokyo – businesses, banks and people – is in the position of owner number two. Debt crushes the spirit, but, until the lender forecloses, it is invisible.

So you see the physical fabric of the bubble years – in particular the glittering office blocks, the symbols of the success of Japanese corporations. What you don't see is the debt that paid for them. No one has a really accurate picture of the scale of indebtedness of many, maybe most, Japanese companies and banks for two reasons. One is that the published accounts are basically full of lies: assets put in at their cost rather than what they are worth now. The other is that, because Japanese companies own large chunks of each other's shares, any fall in the price of those shares is liable to pull another company down.

In the absence of decent data, the rumour-mills grind away. Among companies there are those that are sound and those that will probably need to be rescued or simply go bust.

If the company situation is worrying, the plight of the banks is worse. Among banks there are those that are rumored to be going bust any day now. Indeed it is actu-

ally possible that the whole banking system is bust, in the sense that the loans that will never be repaid are larger than the entire capital and reserves of the system.

It is quite hard to imagine that a business with a giant headquarters, thousands of workers, lines of black limos running squads of executives hither and thither, can actually be worth nothing. Sadly, for many Japanese banks this is true. They have taken in lots of money from depositors and then they have lost it.

This malaise and, in particular, this conflict between appearance and reality are reflected in day-to-day life. So while the stores are full of people, they aren't buying anything much, just walking around because there is not much else to do. There are, of course, pockets of activity. There is a boom in employment agencies for temporary workers. Lots of people have been laid off and are trying to get back into the

catching up with other developed countries this worked wonderfully well. Any mistakes were quickly overcome by the rapid growth. When, by the Eighties, Japan had caught up, instead of trying to switch from growth to profitability, the country behaved like the classic *nouveau riche*, throwing money at ludicrous investments.

The twin ministries still glower at each other across an eight-lane boulevard – Trade and Industry in a white tower, Finance in a squat grey block. But their reputation, particularly that of the MoF, has been shattered. The bureaucrats, who form a thoughtful, cultured, hard-working elite, are seen to have failed.

Why, I asked the man at Miti, did they not see this catastrophe coming? The nub of his answer was that they thought they had got through the recession and that they had a great 25-year plan for the next generation of growth industries. Main

Japanese cultural distinction between what is said and what is really meant. The business people I met had absolutely no hesitation in saying how alarmed they were about the economy; how they detested the bureaucrats and politicians and how they felt that Japan was approaching a revolution akin to that which swept through Britain under Margaret Thatcher.

In fact three people suggested to me that the coming revolution would be comparable with the Meiji revolution 130 years ago or with the creation of the present democratic system after the Second World War. Too dramatic? Impossible to judge. What accounts for this cataclysmic view of the country is the fact that most Japanese can only remember success, so what is happening is entirely new. I had dinner with Masatoshi Ito, the founder of the Ito-Yokado group, one of Japan's two largest retailers. He is a lively septuagenarian who built up the group more or less from scratch after the war.

"Surely," I asked, "there must be some bright spots, some places where demand is all right?"

He shook his head. "Maybe when the bank rescues have been completed, but, at the moment, no."

If the bureaucrats attract much of the opprobrium for the collapse, the politicians catch the rest. "I've given up on politicians" and "I do not have a high regard for our politics" were two of the more measured comments from business leaders. They were principally referring to the Liberal Democrats, who have been in charge virtually non-stop since the mid-Fifties.

If there is a focus for hope it lies in the Democratic Party of Japan, which has now become the principal opposition party. The Democrats are led by Naoto Kan, a telegenic 51-year-old. Some people see him and, just as importantly, the people round him, as the great hope for Japan. He looks the part, has been dubbed "Japan's Tony

BY HAMISH MCRAE

Blair" and is of a completely different generation from the gerontocracy of the LDP.

I went to a party meeting at which the words for "reform" and "bold" kept sprouting, but I do not really think anyone at the stage knows how strong the zeal is to take the very tough decisions that will have to be taken – like, for starters, do you make bank depositors suffer as well as bank shareholders? If not, then the present "middle through and hope that something turns up" strategy will continue.

Muddling through has strong attractions. If only, somehow, they could go on patching things up, concealing problems, hiding bad debts, hoping that exports will save them... It is very difficult for any country to accept that a formula that has worked very well before is no longer working. The obvious parallel is Britain in the 1970s. An elite had managed to win a war, construct the first comprehensive welfare state and maintain a leading position in scientific and technical advances. When the strains showed, its instinct was to patch. Only the humiliation of the IMF conditions in 1976 forced change.

The first question for Japan is: will the situation be so bad that patching becomes impossible? If there were a banking crash that led to three years of deep recession and a surge in social tensions, change might be forced on the country.

The second question is: what will be the mechanism for change? Can the system change itself from within? The last two great changes were forced on Japan from abroad by the US. However, not only is there no appetite for such action in America, but Japan would not accept such pressure even if there was. So Japan is on its own.

Whatever happens – and my instinct is that there will be a great change of some sort, but not for another four or five years – there is a lot to play for. Japan's recession has a long way to run.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Clinton vs puritans

Sir: The pundits of Puritan prurery had better realise that their hypocrisy isn't selling in the American heartland. Kenneth Starr promised proof of criminal activity, but the only charges he makes against President Clinton relate to a natural reluctance to publicly admit to an embarrassing sexual affair. Where are the felonies? Where's the graft? Where's the corruption?

They promised to reveal serious crimes in the Oval Office, but it all boils down to a consensual sexual matter having no real bearing on Clinton's management of the people's affairs. Clinton is doing a tremendous job of running the country and we are not going to allow a gang of moral masqueraders to overthrow the best President we've had in the last 35 years.

Starr has wasted four years and \$40m proving that a man will lie about an extramarital affair. We do not approve of infidelity, but we know the difference between a sexual indiscretion and activities that undermine the people's interests. The religious fanatics trying to stir up a witch hunt should heed the President's popularity ratings, because those numbers are going to sink the Republican Party in November.
STEVEN WEBSTER
San Raphael, California, USA

Sir: It is not the sex, but the principle: that the Executive obstructed the Judiciary - deliberately misleading them and the American people under oath. The fact that the President may have avoided the precise legal definition of perjury is not directly relevant to the question of impeachment, which is more broadly contingent upon acts tending to undermine the Constitution.

The semantic smokescreen behind which the President hid depended upon who touched whose genitals - and so also upon Ms Lewinsky's denial of a sexual relationship. Thus the President's concealment relied upon testimony which he knew to be perjury even by his own interpretation.

The President is sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution, with its deliberately constructed checks and balances, including those between the Judiciary and the Executive. Yet he (at least) took advantage of an act he knew to be illegal to obstruct a judicial investigation into his own conduct.

The question is not, would you trust this man with your daughter; but rather, would you trust him with the Constitution?
GERARD M BLAIR
Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

Sir: Now it seems the only options left for president Clinton are the two great American institutions, to "get Jesus" in a very big and public way and/or commit himself to the care of a therapist. Either way we will get to witness very well-spun contrition, abasement and rehabilitation with an ever more impassioned crescendo of pleas for forgiveness.

"New-found religion" is the same play that those on Death Row often embrace, usually to no avail. As Governor of Arkansas and a presidential hopeful, Clinton very publicly signed death warrants, just for the votes. Now he wants forgiveness. May one suggest that he begin by asking forgiveness from all the families of those put to death in Arkansas.
ROBERT HERTNER
London NW10

Sir: The US Congress, in releasing the Starr report on to the Internet, are guilty of astonishing hypocrisy. How can those politicians complain about pornography being available on the Internet when they themselves have placed on the net a sexually explicit report. How can children be prevented from seeing it? Since the search against the name Clinton will enable any child to view its contents.



Apples and Pears 2: in the second in a series on the British apple and pear harvest, Kelly Mantle picks apples at Plumford farm near Faversham in Kent. Pickers are paid by the bin-load
Tom Pilton

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the only purpose of the Starr report, having found no evidence of financial impropriety on the President's part, was to cause him as much embarrassment as possible.
MARTIN EDWARDS
London SE24

Sir: I do not approve of Clinton's affair with Lewinsky, but I approve even less of both Starr and the global media machine. Starr appears hell-bent on removing a president from office. The global media machine appears hell-bent on trawling the depths of depravity to provide the most salacious material for its readers.

I feel most sorry for Hillary and Chelsea Clinton. To have dirty linen is bad; to have it aired around the world for all to see must be almost unbearable. One can only admire Hillary for the way in which she is supporting her husband.
DR SALLY BASKER
Ash, Surrey

Sir: Kenneth Starr's undignified slandering over the details of Bill Clinton's sex life testifies to nothing so much as his narrow horizons. As his fellow American Woody Allen taught us, "Sex is dirty; at least it is if you're doing it right."
BARRY IFE
Woodbridge, Suffolk

Fairer voting

Sir: Mike Gapes MP ("Right of Reply", 10 September) argues that the Jenkins Commission on proportional representation should recognise "the overriding importance of keeping the link between MP and constituency." Why?

Surveys show that few of us can even name our local MP. Even fewer bother to attend their

meetings or surgeries. And the 1997 election surely dispelled the myth of the "personal vote" (more a product of Members' vanity than a reflection of psephological reality).

The fact is, constituency MPs are neither one thing nor the other. Ward councillors are better placed to handle truly local concerns than MPs who, all too often, are parachuted in from distant parts of the country, spend much of their time in London and have little real commitment to their constituencies (witness the pre-election "chicken run" as senior Tories dumped their adopted political "homes" with barely a second glance in their rear-view mirrors). Citizens' Advice Bureaux, too, generally provide rather more practical assistance than MPs, despite their much vaunted "special access" to ministers or civil servants.

As for the bigger local issues, regional representatives (within larger, multi-member constituencies) would surely be better placed to fight their constituents' corner with Whitehall and big business.

And after all, when push comes

to shove, are Mr Gapes and his colleagues ever likely to defy the party whip - even when "their" constituents' interests are compromised? In your dreams.

The fact is people vote for parties, not individuals, and a fair electoral system must reflect that fact. Sadly, if Mike Gapes's column is anything to go by, there are still plenty of turkeys at Westminster who won't be voting for Christmas. Fortunately, the decision will be ours, not theirs.
ANDREW MITCHELL
London W4

Sir: A D Hoadley (letter, 7 September) doubts whether Lord Jenkins will propose a voting system "which discounts party power... and is devised solely for the health of the democracy". He should not be unduly surprised, seeing that Mr Blair has initiated events in the wrong order.

It would have been far better had he called a referendum first. The electorate should have been given a choice of several systems. Only then should Lord Jenkins's committee have been convened, their job being to decide the precise details of the system.

IN BRIEF

BBC stopped broadcasting to Thailand? These people, many British-educated, now had to watch CNN (considered very inferior) to receive foreign news broadcasts.

The answer, of course, is that the BBC transmissions to South-east Asia used one of Rupert Murdoch's satellites and he stopped that, for fear that unbiased BBC reporting might damage his commercial interests in China. He has damaged British relations with

several friendly South-east Asian countries. Is he going to be allowed to ruin football as well?
SUSAN TRITTON
Edinburgh

Sir: The next time Uri Geller gives his inner divinity an outing (letter, 11 September) on some Saturday night light entertainment programme, he might like to try rebubbling a badly twisted spoon to its perfect original shape. A truly serious purpose.
DAMIAN MURRAY
Leeds

A second referendum might have been necessary, but at least we could be sure that a reformed electoral system, if asked for, would be implemented sooner rather than later.

By implementing a "committee stage" before he has ascertained whether there is a demand for electoral reform, Mr Blair may well be wasting taxpayer's money; he cannot tell. Worse, he may find, at a later date, that electoral reform suits him, but the voters have tired of his government and are no longer willing to listen to it.
NEIL INGOE
Woking, Surrey

Sir: According to recent reports some of the trade unions affiliated to the Labour Party, together with the Conservative Party leadership, are preparing to oppose any move from the first-past-the-post system for elections to the House of Commons.

Exceptionally in a British context, it would appear that the electorate are actually going to be allowed a direct voice on the matter in a referendum. I hope that voters will take on board the fact that in electing their leaders and chief officers, the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and most trade unions have long abandoned plurality voting, and have substituted some system of second ballot, alternative vote or proportional representation. Clearly, for them, what is sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander.
STEPHEN G LINSTED
Solihull, West Midlands

Sir: As well as reviewing *Saving Private Ryan* ("Killing time killing Nazis", 10 September), I hope you will be covering its potential effect upon surviving war veterans. Over the past few years, I have seen an increasing number of people suffering from delayed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related to wartime experiences.

Complaints have included nightmares, flashbacks, intense feelings of guilt, difficulties relating to others, preoccupying thoughts. These complaints have often been related to other events in the individuals' lives - death of a spouse, death of a wartime comrade, increasing time to think about the past because of illness or retirement - but are sometimes triggered by specific events, such as the D-Day anniversary commemorations. It seems likely that, as in America, this film and the accompanying coverage will trigger delayed PTSD for some individuals and I trust that a percentage of the profits is being used to help such people.

Although I will see the film myself, I am not entirely convinced that the entertainment/education of the many is entirely worth the suffering of the few, particularly when they have already suffered.
DR CHRIS ALLEN
Consultant Clinical Psychologist
Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

It also means that all apples must be carefully wiped and washed, labelled and described. Do not forget, too, that we have to be very careful about the basket in which your apples are displayed. Is it made in the European Union? From approved ingredients? Has it been checked for contagious diseases recently?

(To be on the safe side, why not send up for our compendious booklet, *The Top Hundred Contagious Diseases Approved of by the European Union*?)

Is there adequate protection for your apples from the rain? And from passing insect life? Do you know how you stand legally if a passing walker should reach out for one of your apples and be stung by a bee sitting on it, then die horribly? Did you know that

A potter's legacy

Sir: The name of the potter Bernard Leach is renowned throughout the world. He lived for a long period in Japan; in 1920 he returned to the UK and started Leach pottery at St Ives. After the Second World War he made standard ware in stoneware of excellent design and made individual pieces in stoneware and porcelain. He wrote *A Potter's Book*, which was translated into several languages.

In the Fifties he married his third wife, Janet. Janet Leach died last year. Her collection of pots and artifacts will be offered in a major sale at Bonhams, auctioneers, of London, in three sales taking place in one day on 16 September.

It is vital that important pots made by Bernard Leach and documents and books owned by him should stay in the public domain and not be bought by private collectors or museums abroad unless they are scrutinised by people who are competent to judge.
HENRY W ROTHSCHILD
Cambridge

Change of planning

Sir: In his letter about the Trafford Centre in Greater Manchester (10 September), Mark Brockbank says "The planning process is carried out under the rules laid down by the Government" and "Permission was given for Trafford development to go ahead because the House of Lords ruled that the law said there was no reason why it could not".

Permission for the Trafford Centre was given under a previous policy in a previous government. It is the policy which determines the planning process. At that time, the government of the day was lenient towards out-of-town development, and negative to the role of the planning system, which it saw as inhibiting competition.

Now we are moving away from the mistakes of the past; such permission would be far more difficult to obtain.

Section 54A of the Town & Country Planning Act (1990) gives priority to the local authority's Development Plan - prepared with public involvement and in accordance with current policy. This policy requires that the development plan looks first at town centre sites, makes use of previously developed land and aims to minimise travel.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 1 (1997) states that "an applicant who proposes development which is clearly in conflict with the development plan would need to produce convincing reasons why the plan should not prevail".

Planners knew then that the building of the Trafford Centre was not the right thing to do - it is only now that government agrees with us.
TREVOR ROBERTS
President
The Royal Town Planning Institute
London W1

Fashions in faith

Sir: With the benefit of hindsight, much of what passed for biblical and theological scholarship in the last 150 years (letters 4, 9 September) now looks like a series of fads which expressed the culture of the day.

Molly Rosenthal's apparent liking for "questioning" faith may be another one of those fads. Whilst questioning God and wrestling with problems is basic to biblical faith (most obviously in the Psalms), there is a place for conviction too. The rejection of certainty as a need for the spiritually immature not only feels rather superior, but parallels a wider cultural disdain for authority and the idea that things can be taken on trust. In a generation or two, Ms Rosenthal's perspective (and probably her reliance on modern cosmology too) may look just as dated as previous versions of "culture Christianity".
The Rev DAVID KEEN
Taunton, Somerset

Can you resist the poisoned apple of bureaucracy?

EVERY DAY I get press releases and government leaflets and publicity blurbs landing on my desk and every day I let them drift gently into my waste paper basket like sudden autumn leaves, but yesterday was an exception; my eye was caught by a most unusual government hand-out. This turned out to be such an extraordinary document that I have not only kept it, I have decided to print it in full today, in order to give you some idea of the way this government really is looking after us properly...

Windfall Apples - All You Need To Know
A Message from New Labour
Hello! This is autumn, the time when we go blackberrying and mushroom picking, and when we

traditionally put our excess apples in baskets outside our houses, marked "Windfalls - Please Take!". It's a nice custom.

For a start, it's not cruel like fox-hunting. And it shows a touch of generosity perhaps needed in this modern world.

But before you put your windfall apples out to be taken, it's as well that you are acquainted with the law concerning such fruit.

Did you know, for instance, that it is illegal to put out windfall apples in baskets on public property and that it should be restricted to your own land?

Did you know that it is illegal to accept any money in return for your windfalls unless the figures are included on your tax returns and you are duly registered as a "licensed fruit-seller"? (Why not send up for

our booklet, *How to Register as a Bons Fide Greengrocer*?) Do you know that it is illegal to give away windfall apples even on your own property unless you are registered as a charity?

(Why not send up for our booklet, *Tip-toeing Your Way Through The Minefield We Call Charity*...?) Either way, you ought to know the pitfalls of the health and safety regulations governing the transfer of fruit from private ownership to the public domain.

For instance, if someone falls ill after eating one of your windfall apples and can prove it was your liability, did you know that you can be prosecuted under the Fruit Insurance Act? With liabilities of up to £50,000? Did you know that any windfall apple charity area (and this means your front gate) should be

provided with adequate toilet and hand-washing facilities? Did you know that your windfall apple charity area should be provided with adequate disabled access facilities? (You can always send up for our leaflet, *Windfall Apples and Adequate Parking: The Facts*.) All that is fairly simple and straightforward. But remember, too, that the apples you give away must be on the list of approved fruit circulated by the European Union, and that it is a crime to give away species not recognised by Brussels. The shape and dimension of the apples must be within the prescribed limits laid down by Brussels. It might be of some assistance if you sent up for our companion volume, *Towards a European Apple: Some Notes*.

This means that the measurements of each apple should be logged and the shapes sketched on the appropriate forms.



MILES KINGTON
This will tell you the basic laws governing the tricky process of throwing apples away

provided with adequate toilet and hand-washing facilities? Did you know that your windfall apple charity

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It also means that all apples must be carefully wiped and washed, labelled and described.

Do not forget, too, that we have to be very careful about the basket in which your apples are displayed. Is it made in the European Union? From approved ingredients? Has it been checked for contagious diseases recently?

(To be on the safe side, why not send up for our compendious booklet, *The Top Hundred Contagious Diseases Approved of by the European Union*?)

Is there adequate protection for your apples from the rain? And from passing insect life? Do you know how you stand legally if a passing walker should reach out for one of your apples and be stung by a bee sitting on it, then die horribly? Did you know that

grubs and insects in apples are, technically, livestock and should be looked after as such?

Perhaps you ought to send up for our helpful leaflet, *Blimey, If I'd Known It was Going to Be This Kind of Bureaucratic Nightmare, I'd Have Thrown The Bloody Apples Away In The First Place!*

This will tell you the basic laws governing the tricky process of throwing apples away.

But please never forget one thing. We are here to help and to make things easier for you.

Thank you.
CORRECTION: Yesterday I wrote 'Andrew Lloyd Webber is one of the great cultural herps of our time'. This should, of course, have read: 'one of the great cultural herps of our time'. Sorry.

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Forget "fat cats" and focus on fighting inequality

IT IS tempting to cheer on John Edmonds and the TUC as they lay into managers on huge bonuses and salaries as "greedy bastards", despite the crude nature of this language. For one thing, TUC members, many of them having their pay held down by the Government, must have been glad to hear someone give vent to their frustrations.

Mr Edmonds's comments have a deeper resonance. The widening gap between rich and poor is a legitimate concern. Only last week, a UN report ranked Britain one of the most unequal societies in the developed world: nearly a fifth of the population live below its measure of the poverty line. Meanwhile, there can be little doubt that the rich have become very much richer.

There have been abuses, especially in the privatised utilities. Sell-offs of those firms at prices below their market cost kept their monopoly position intact. This has meant that directors' share options have risen far beyond improvements in performance can justify. Hence, the public anger at the pay of directors of rail and water companies.

Concentrating on a few abnormal cases, however, clouds our view of the big picture. In a classic example of British class politics and envy, the country has for too long focused on those cases, to the exclusion of other issues of pay and inequality. Increasing access to new technology, education, and jobs is the key to reducing poverty: shouting at the rich will not improve the situation on one so-called "sink" estate, or save one family snared in poverty.

There are no easy answers to the problem of inequality. Edmonds's call for higher taxation on top earners is an emotional, not a rational response: such measures would do little to bridge the gap between rich and poor. There are simply too few really high earners to pay for a sustained attack on poverty. If the public really does want to tackle social exclusion, it will have to pay more in taxes - and that includes those earning what many would consider relatively modest wages.

The Government is already taking action to make sure that utilities can no longer abuse their market dominance. The regulators appointed by government are to be merged, given more power, and given a role in relating pay to performance. More competition is opening up the gas, telecoms and electricity industries, preventing them reaping easy profits. This, in particular, should have a restraining effect on wage settlements.



As for "fat cats" in the private sector, there seems little the Government can do directly. It can, however, make sure that corporate governance is reviewed. Remuneration committees and company boards are notoriously weak when it comes to standing up to powerful employees, many of whom are friends of those who sit in judgement on their salaries. They need to be tougher. They should ensure that losses are punished in pay packets, just as much as profits are rewarded.

More broadly, it seems as if the Government will have to look again at the fetish it has made of refusing to raise direct taxes. There seems little doubt that Labour's terror at tax rises, driven by memories of the 1992 election,

is now outdated. Whatever caution we need in approaching the evidence of opinion polls, they consistently show a huge drop in the numbers of those resisting tax rises since then.

There needs to be a vigorous debate on taxation: new ideas are desperately needed. To take just one, the tax burden could be lifted at the bottom end of the scale, helping millions on low incomes escape the poverty trap of losing most of their wages in tax and benefit withdrawals. Only such measures, along with higher taxes across the board, could pay for a real attack on inequality. That would be better than a mere spasm of anger, aimed at an unpopular minority.

Remember those who risk their lives

OF ALL the compromises involved in the Northern Ireland peace process, those surrounding the release of paramilitary prisoners are the hardest to take. Quite apart from the moral probity of releasing convicted killers before their term is served, there are practical problems as well. If the Maze is eventually to close, and "de-militarisation" proceed by shrinking the RUC, what is to happen to all those who have served the Crown in its long conflict in Northern Ireland?

Unfortunately, the Government has not done very well in beginning to answer this question. There are reports that the Treasury, against the advice of the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, is trying to limit redundancy payments to ex-prison officers to an amount within her existing budget. A more short-sighted piece of penny-pinching would be difficult to imagine.

These reports send exactly the wrong signal to the forces of law and order in Northern Ireland, at just the wrong time. As prisoner releases were unsettling Unionist opinion, and many within the RUC, the news that terms for those laid off were going to be decided by the Treasury in London was the last thing the peace process needed.

Quite apart from this, there is the moral issue. Prison officers and RUC personnel have put their lives on the line for the public time after time. Prison officers have been expected to tolerate a virtual prisoner-of-war camp atmosphere inside the Maze, complete with "consultation" with the inmates. RUC patrols have come under fire from snipers day after day.

To say that Sinn Féin, which spent decades trying to undermine the British government, can now be pillars of that rule, is one thing. To say that those who always supported the rule of law should be jettisoned on the cheap is quite another. The Treasury, in the shape of its Chief Secretary, Stephen Byers, should reconsider its request of Mo Mowlam. Reconciliation and fair treatment should apply to all sides in the Province: that should include those employed by the state just as much as anyone else.

Mothers' pride

THE DEBUNKING of our new urban myths continues apace. Not only are "new lads" revealed by a survey as using mobile telephones to call their mothers more than anyone else; "new ladettes" also turn out to be a less than exciting group. They have admitted to *Bella* magazine that they do not enjoy sex very much. Is this good or bad news for the makers of Viagra?

Unions must realise this is the only Labour government they have

THE LAST time Labour came into office after a long period out of it, a jolly joke circulated among union leaders. It was about the trade union delegation to the TUC Congress which held a lavish reception at which the guest of honour was Harold Wilson.

So lavish, in fact that when the delegates got back to London, the union's Treasurer questioned the cost. As well, the General Secretary explained, Harold was detained until late at Downing Street on vital government business and we had to keep drinking until he arrived.

But then the following year the costs of the union's annual reception proved to be wildly over budget once more. With just a hint of sarcasm, the Treasurer asked whether Harold Wilson had been late again. "No", the general secretary replied wearily, "George Brown was early".

The story conjures precisely the cosy - if frequently also acrimonious - family atmosphere that joined what used to be called the political and industrial wings of the Labour movement when the party was last in power. To most of those now inhabiting Downing Street, however, including Tony Blair, the joke will be just a ghostly and baffling throwback to a past that no longer has any meaning. All that has gone.

The present Prime Minister certainly does not see the TUC - at whose general council dinner he will be a somewhat reluctant guest of honour this evening - as an inseparable sibling of the party he leads.

The links between a Labour government and the TUC are not, to put it mildly, what they were.

True, old habits die harder than you might have thought. John Prescott,

the (very soft-drinking) equivalent in power of George Brown, was there yesterday; Peter Mandelson who, as he reminded my colleague Andrew Grice at the weekend, actually worked at the TUC 20 years ago, is cutting short his trip to South Africa to speak to the Congress on Thursday.

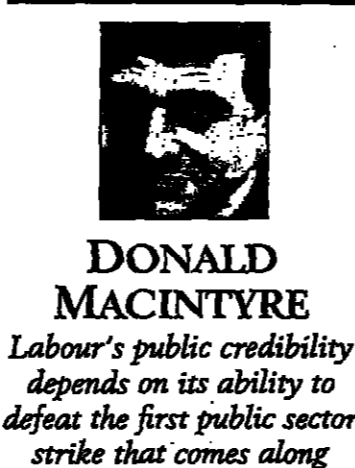
David Blunkett and Mo Mowlam are going. Gordon Brown would certainly be having criticisms of the high level of sterling and interest rates, were he not in Japan. Instead this task will be left to Eddie George, no less, the Governor of the Bank of England.

The number of ministers elbowing each other out of the way in the rush to Blackpool is one of the reasons why this year's Congress is proving more interesting than many in the recent past; the other is that at least some of the fears being expressed by manufacturing unions about the economy will be echoed elsewhere, including among industrialists.

This is flattering. But union leaders should not be lulled by this welcome attention into forgetting that the world has changed beyond recognition since the last time they met a year into a Labour government.

To judge by the blood-curdling threats of industrial action in the public sector by John Edmonds, or by Roger Lyons' tendency to blame British interest rates for every factory closure in the North East, this is a lesson they still find difficult to learn.

The sense of grievance among public sector workers, whose pay is increasing at only half the rate of those in the private sector, is real; especially in the case of nurses and teachers, whose commitment and quality is critical to the two services which Labour won the election



DONALD MACINTYRE
Labour's public credibility depends on its ability to defeat the first public sector strike that comes along

promising to improve. But the unions face a severe problem in contemplating strikes, as Mr Edmonds must know. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown's economic credibility would depend on their ability to defeat the first public sector strike that comes their way, and the rank and file membership may be quite intelligent enough to realise it.

Similarly it positively undermines the case for the Bank of England's remit to be widened to take more account of the problems of manufacturing industry if Lyons pretends that a collapse in the world micro-chip market, caused by the Asian economic crisis, was not to blame for the Fujitsu or Siemens closures.

The only organisation ignoring those factors is the British Conservative Party, and they at least have the excuse that their job is opposition, on whatever grounds.

What has made the TUC an important forum this year - apart from

the understandable desire of ministers to rub shoulders briefly with leaders of Labour-affiliated unions who still matter at the party conference, not to mention, perhaps, leadership contests in the distant future - is largely the work of one man. John Monks.

Mr Monks is an articulate, thoughtful and thoroughly modern leader of what he himself never ceases to remind interviewers is the country's largest voluntary organisation. It may be unfashionable to say so, but the TUC congress, in its less publicised debates, discusses, often before anyone else does, a whole series of bread and butter issues from safety at work to productivity, which are of genuinely national importance.

Mr Monks has stressed continually the value of industrial partnership. He understands that the unions have problems of their own which they cannot expect government of any colour to sort out for them.

With membership of TUC-affiliated unions down to 6.6m compared with 13m in 1980, the unions have a duty to organise as well as moan, to paraphrase the old American Industrial Workers of the World slogan.

That is why the TUC has started to hire and train expert young union recruiters for the private sector. Mr Monks has shown some signs of irritation with colleagues apparently anxious to talk industry into a worse recession than it may already face. He understands that political lobbying may be a more potent weapon than threats of industrial action. And his proven negotiating skills are one of the reasons why the TUC made some real gains in employee rights in the *Fusion* and *Work White Paper*.

True to form some of his colleagues

then immediately denounced the outcome to the detriment of their own reputations among their members.

Employers, including newspaper industry employers like Rupert Murdoch's News International, have now embarked on a ferocious lobbying campaign to water down some of these provisions. There is certainly a case for unions, at a time when they are proclaiming their justified worries about jobs, not demanding so much labour market regulation that it, too, threatens employment.

Nevertheless Mr Mandelson would be unwise to bow too far to the employers by unravelling the carefully constructed settlement which produced his predecessor's White Paper. The settlement took a great deal of negotiation - and Mr Monks is well aware that he will have a ready audience in the Parliamentary Labour Party if he is in a position to cry foul on an agreement which the unions thought was a done deal. Nor should the TUC be ignored: if John Monks' strong support for EMU holds, despite TGWU opposition this week - and his case is stronger in view of the higher rate of sterling - it will become a highly important instrument for delivering a yes vote in a referendum.

In return however union leaders should listen to Mr Monks a little more and use the oldpeak of 20 years ago a little less. As Mr Prescott reminded them yesterday, they are listened to a lot more by this administration than the last. The minimum wage, better rights at work, and at least the right to recognition if a ballot votes for it, is more than any Tory administration was prepared to grant.

In the end, this is the only Labour government they have got.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I want a pluralist parliament for a pluralist people in a Northern Ireland in which all of us, unionist and nationalist, work together."
David Trimble,
Northern Ireland's First Minister

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees."
Dolores Barruri,
Spanish communist and trade unionist



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HE HAS humiliated his wife, embarrassed his daughter, demeaned himself and debased his office. Continuing the fight to stay on will only exacerbate this damage. He should resign.
The Australian

THE SALIENT points are that Mr Clinton had a sexual relationship with a 21-year-old intern and lied about it under oath. At best, Congress may censure him. In the worst, it may impeach him. In the meantime, the presidency will be

reduced to a semen-stained shell and the government of the sole remaining superpower will be paralysed even as the world faces its worst economic crisis since the 1930s.
Straits Times, Singapore

THIS AFFAIR shows the vibrancy of the US system, be it constitutional, legal or moral. After all, Mr Clinton did not invent sexual peccadilloes. From Washington and Jefferson to John Kennedy, not all the residents of the White

House have exactly been exemplars of sexual rectitude.
Hindustan Times, India

AT A time when the world community is plagued by financial and economic crisis, the lack of American leadership is a cause of concern. The flip side of the quandary is that Clinton's battered leadership does not seem to contain the vital-

ty and effectiveness needed to lead not only his own nation, but also the global community that looks to him for precious leadership.
Korea Times

WITH SCORES of millions of people starving all around the globe, or fleeing as refugees from war, flood, pestilence, and privation, the world heading into global recession that savages and demeans lives, who the hell cares whether a seri-

al lecher named Bill cavorted at the White House with a suddenly love-struck "sick" girl named Monica?
Philippine Star

WHAT IS needed now is action, and the only honourable action still open to the president is to hand over the keys to the Oval Office - the inner sanctum of American executive power, which he has sullied in so many ways.
South China Morning Post

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South China Morning Post

Does Clinton need sex therapy?



ANTHONY CLARE

Is he a sick man, hooked into a repetitive series of sordid encounters despite his every effort to resist?

IN THESE supposedly rational times, the spectacle of someone repeatedly engaging in sexual behaviour which is dangerously risky, and, potentially, exceedingly self-destructive, provokes many people to resort to some psychopathological explanation. Many see President Clinton as an Artful Dodger who just got caught, or just someone who, as Gore Vidal once memorably argued of powerful men, has more opportunity than most to seduce impressionable women.

The more psychologically minded wonder whether he is a sick man, unable to control his sexual impulses, hooked into a repetitive series of sordid encounters despite his every effort to resist - in other words, addicted to sex.

The problem with the indiscriminate application of the term "addiction" to unwanted, disreputable, or seemingly inexplicable and repetitive behaviour, is that it more often than not involves a circular argument. So, in relation to Bill Clinton's sexual activities, there is more than a touch of the "Clinton cannot keep his hands off pretty young women because he is addicted to sex - Clinton is addicted to sex because he cannot keep his hands off pretty young women" kind of reasoning. Nothing very much is explained by labelling Clinton's sexual indiscretions the result of an addiction, unless there is some additional, supporting evidence, distinct from the behaviour the label is supposed to explain.

In the maelstrom, it is possible to detect a temptation to resort to the world of psychopathology and psychotherapy for cause-and-effect explanations - the President himself has spoken of "feeling pain, closure and healing" - and there has even been discussion as to whether he has sought, or been offered, psychiatric treatment. But it is a temptation, like all those other temptations, that might be better resisted.

Psychiatrists and psychologists, criminologists and philosophers, have all wrestled with the problems of impulse control for years now: problems of people peculiarly prone to relentless acts of mindless violence; repetitive stealing; fire-setting; pathological drinking; drugs and gambling. In the case of addiction to drugs and alcohol, there is supporting evidence of mind-altering effects of drugs such as opiates, alcohol, barbiturates and the benzodiazepines. Take enough of certain mind-altering drugs for long enough and then, when suddenly deprived of them, your body and mind experience a variety of well-recognised and distressing withdrawal symptoms.

Even here, however, there is room for argument. Modern cognitive therapists insist that it makes better sense to see the persistent misuse of alcohol, not as evidence of some physiological "addiction", but as a result of the way that the individual, over time, has learned to use the substance, taking into account the interaction between the individual's personality and the social and cultural context in which the

substance abuse occurs. Using such an argument, Clinton's sexual behaviour is not so much the result of some kind of physiological addiction, as the consequence of a learned view of masculine sexual activity, conditioned by the environment in which he developed, and a culture within which he works.

When it comes to addiction to work, shopping, food or sex, the problem becomes much more complicated. There is a dearth of consistent physiological findings to support true physical addiction, although there is much speculation concerning changes in brain neurotransmitter functions, endorphins (the opiate-like substances produced in the brain), and in amines such as serotonin and neuroadrenaline, believed to be highly important in the regulation of mood.

In the American Psychiatric Association's classification guide, the 4th edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, or DSM-4 as it is called, there is a section devoted to problems of impulse control. Sexual addiction does not figure, but there are references to kleptomania, pyromania and pathological gambling. In each of these activities, there is a common cluster of behaviours. First, there is a persistent failure to resist impulses to steal objects that are not needed for personal use or gain (kleptomania), to set fire to things (pyromania) or to gamble. Then, there is an increasing sense of tension immediately prior to performing the pathological behaviour, and pleasure, gratification or relief at the time of performing it. In the case of pathological gambling, there are repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back or stop gambling, and lies to family members, therapists and others, to conceal the extent of involvement, and the individual's marriage, job, and educational or career opportunities, are invariably jeopardised because of the gambling.

Extrapolating from the categories of gambling or kleptomania to sex is not difficult, and there has been no shortage of experts prepared to do so in the case of President Clinton. There is the President's seeming inability to control his sexual impulses. There are the lies, evasions, justifications and deceptions. There is the very obvious risk and jeopardy

to family, public status and job. There may, or may not be, various psychological and physiological tensions prior to his indulging the behaviour, and relief, additional to sexual relief, afterwards. But the question begged by this purely descriptive approach is the question that the categories are supposed to be all about: how far can Clinton be said to have some impairment of control over his behaviour?

We know he didn't control it. But do we know whether he wanted to control it, whether he tried repeatedly to control it, and repeatedly failed?

And this is where it starts to become even more complicated. Despite the enormous detail concerning Clinton's sexual behaviour contained in the Starr Report, we don't know that much of Clinton's own view of it. The President has spent so much time lying and deflecting and denying, that it is not possible to conclude, with any confidence, whether he himself felt he could not control himself, or believed that he really did not have to.

It is an important distinction. Monica Lewinsky's account does suggest that he tried to terminate the relationship on 19 February 1998, because he "no longer felt right about their intimate relationship", but within six weeks they were meeting again. Could he have stopped? Did he have distressing physiological and psychological symptoms when he refrained from seeing her? Did he have a sexual relationship with anyone else in the meantime? And does any of this really matter now, since, addicted or not, Clinton now has little choice but to cease his impulsive behaviour?

But, yes, it does matter - for the sting in the tail of the addiction argument, if one can put it so inelegantly, is that it plainly categorises the President as a pathologically sick man who needs therapy. And the therapy he needs is plainly more than the spiritual ministry provided by the Reverend Jesse Jackson and his friends. It also has profound implications for the presidency, in that it suggests that the man with responsibility for the security of America, and indeed the world, suffers from a pathological inability (as distinct from a chosen refusal) to control his impulses.

Many may prefer to accept that Clinton freely chose to involve himself in repeated sexual encounters with a 21-year-old White House employee, rather than being helpless and in the grip of a pathological disturbance of behaviour. Anyway, we will almost certainly never know Clinton's sexual motivation, for even if he were to tell us, we would not know whether to believe him.

More repetitive than the sexual behaviour, is a pattern of lying, going back to whether or not Clinton had been drafted, and before. To speak of pathological lying might be semantically more accurate than to speak of sexual addiction. And it may be the lying rather than the sex that will bring the President down.



Bill Clinton prepares to put his case to the American people in his television address

RIGHT OF REPLY

ROGER LYONS



The General Secretary of the MSF union replies to Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson

YESTERDAY, YOU quoted Peter Mandelson as saying that we are "partners in creating a modernised and fair society". Splendid! This is exactly what we have been working towards.

MSF members want to be involved, to be consulted and to have influence. They are skilled and professional people who have the ideas, knowledge and the commitment to make Britain's industries and services the best in the world, in an economy based on high skills and partnership.

At present most of our members feel excluded. Excluded from the decisions that affect them most - the future of their own jobs. MSF believes the way forward and the way to safeguard their jobs is to work together as partners.

To be globally competitive as a country requires all of us to play our part. It is especially vital that our manufacturing industry competes globally to provide the wealth our society needs to deliver the promises of new Labour. In this the government obviously has a role.

I agree with what Peter Mandelson says - there are limits on national economic policy in the new environment, but the government can play a role in re-invigorating a flagging national economy. The current high interest rates are affecting the ability of industry to invest and therefore holding back British industry. It is not just unions that are saying this but also the employers.

So it is with real disappointment that I read that Peter opposes our view that growth should be considered as part of the criteria for fixing interest rates. I urge him to think again.

Manufacturing companies up and down the land are facing difficulties. The government will be judged by its success in developing this vital part of our economy. I am sure it is a test that they will pass in partnership with unions and employers.

Patten ducks mandarin attacks

IF EVER a book was in the eye of the storm, then *East and West* is it. As the last governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten spent five years locking horns not just with the Chinese government, but also with a group of Whitehall mandarins and their parliamentary sympathisers, who considered his espousal of democratic rights for the colony ill-judged. Then came an unholy and much-publicised row when Patten delivered his manuscript to its commissioning publishers, HarperCollins. The proprietor, Rupert Murdoch, decided to reject what Patten had written, reputedly without having read a word of it.

The immediate upshot was that, while the book went to Macmillan for a yet bigger advance, Murdoch lost the services of his gifted publishing director, Stuart Proffitt. In Hong Kong, meanwhile, the situation has started to deteriorate faster than anyone dared fear. Partly this is due to the general meltdown in Asian markets, but partly the new authorities have already shown an interventionist hand. Speculation by governmental investors and cynicism have both appeared as new features in the Hong Kong cauldron.

Given the noise that preceded it, Patten's book is almost bound to disappoint. Whatever else it may be, it certainly is not a blow-by-blow account of the wrangles that plagued his gov-



TUESDAY BOOK

EAST AND WEST
BY CHRIS PATTEN, MACMILLAN, £20

ernorship, though he hints darkly that the truth, were it known, would be found unbelievable. He has something to say about his term of office, but the reader will search in vain for any mention of, say, Sir Percy Cradock, chief among that Whitehall clique who, as Patten sees it, advocated a policy of self-abasement towards Beijing.

Rather Patten, as elder statesman-in-waiting, elects for circumspection. Only Murdoch comes in for a killing punch. Patten reminds us that the Australian once boasted that his sort of broadcasting represents an unambiguous threat to totalitarian regimes, but subsequently "reacted unambiguously to objections from Peking (sic) by booting the BBC from his satellite channels". Touché. Was this included in the manuscript originally delivered to HarperCollins?

Mainly, *East and West* is an extended exposition of Patten's own political philosophy within the context of his Hong Kong experience, decked out with snippets of autobiography and repeated praise of the Beijing regime. In essence, Patten is a Butlerite with a fierce faith in free trade and liberal economics as the universal panacea for all the world's ills, including human-rights abuses.

Heading his list of priorities is the rule of law: the impartial guarantor of both economic and civic health. His key questions are whether such a package can be exported Asia-wide, and how disruptive to the emerging global order any sectional (ie Chinese) rejection of it may be.

By insisting on the universal applicability of his recipe, Patten begs both answers. It is in its detail, however, that some of his argument falters. In his most provocative chapter, "Asian Values", he adroitly hobbles a silly stalking horse. "Asian Values" is shorthand for the devil-may-care attitude that has supposedly attended the fast-track expansion of Far Eastern economies. But while Patten demonstrates that there is noth-

ing uniquely or even especially Asian about the rapacity in question, he allows this conclusion to blind him to real cultural differences between East and West.

As his book fans out to take in all Asia, though, curiously not Japan in any meaningful degree, he is at his weakest when considering Confucianism. Confucius, he suggests, is also a bit of a myth. Quoting selectively from the Analects, he attempts to show that Confucius too was a liberal. But what Confucius in fact said (a matter of mending debate) is very nearly irrelevant. What matters is Confucianism as an actual historic paradigm that explains, among other marvels, the predilection for command economies among its followers.

Patten's discussion avoids mention of command economies as such. Nor does it properly

identify another main prop of Asian economic growth: cheap labour. The two surges in Hong Kong's economy both depended on it, as well as on massive capital injections, particularly from Japan and the US. The colony's own cheap labour fuelled the boom in the 1960s, and Guangdong province's that of the 1980s. So this is an unaccountable oversight.

Such shortcomings place Patten's book somewhat in the common ruck of Asia surveys, even though most readers will warm to its author as his account progresses. His greatest error, however, is the most pervasive. Contrary to liberal ideology, human rights are conventions, and as such have to be sold wherever they do not already exist. Patten's incessant war against Beijing, however principled, may impede their sale where to him they matter most.

Conversely, East and West will certainly be taken most seriously in the occident. A large commission is already on its way to Australia. Whether it will also appear in Hong Kong is the immediate test to come. If the new authorities are very lucky, Murdoch will buy up all the bookshops there and spare their blushes.

JUSTIN WINTLE



Chris Patten: an elder statesman in waiting?

TUESDAY POEM

A MAP OF LOVE
BY DONALD JUSTICE

Your face more than others' faces
Maps the half-remembered places
I have come to while I slept -
Continents a dream had kept
Secret from all waking folk
Till to your face I awoke,
And remembered then the shore,
And the dark interior.

From Donald Justice's *Orpheus Hesitated*
Beside the Black River: poems 1952-1997 (Anvil, £8.95). Anvil Press celebrates its 30th birthday this autumn. Our poems this week come from its latest titles.

Oxfam Flood Appeal

EMERGENCY

Right now in Bangladesh 20 million people face malnutrition and fatal diseases.

Floods have engulfed three-quarters of the country, ravaging nearly 30,000 villages, destroying crops, and making millions of people homeless. People have no clean drinking water or sanitation, and are vulnerable to potentially fatal water-borne diseases.

Your gift can help save lives

Oxfam is helping people to move to shelters, where they are safe from the floods. We are providing food, clean drinking water, and medicines.

But we need more money urgently. There will be no harvest this Autumn, and starvation is a real threat.

The people of South Asia need your help now. Just £25 will buy food for 16 people for three weeks.

Please, send your gift to the
Oxfam Flood Appeal

Oxfam, Room BB13, FREEPOST, Oxford OX2 7BR

Yes, I want to help save lives.

Here is my gift of:

£25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ £250 ☐ £

Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms

Address

Postcode

Please send to: Oxfam, Room BB13, FREEPOST, Oxford OX2 7BR

Flood Appeal Line 01865 313131



Publish and be blessed

Very long and definitely uncool, *The Holy Bible* had a serious image problem until a young publisher chopped it all up. By Kevin Jackson

In the beginning was the Word. Then Gutenberg invented printing, and the Word became a bestseller, not to say the bestseller. Some four billion copies of *The Holy Bible* were produced between 1800 and 1975 alone, which puts the print run for the sacred texts of Christendom comfortably ahead of their nearest rival, the sacred text of a rather different faith – the *Little Red Book* of quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong. Mao's mini-antology shifted a trifling 900 million units.

To be sure, "bestseller" is not an altogether accurate term for books which were generally given away, and a pedant might point out that the most widely distributed title of all time is the *Sevens Roebuck Catalogue* (circa 7 billion copies). When it comes to publishing, Mammon has thrashed both God and Mao.

Still, *The Bible* clearly has legs as a chart-topper, so it is quite surprising that it has taken so long for a publisher to wonder whether there might not be some innovative way of presenting it to the book-buying public, Christian or otherwise. Some way, that is, which by-passes the two most obvious obstacles that stand between the average late-20th-century reader and *The Bible*: (a) it is dauntingly long, and (b) if you read it on the bus, people will assume you are a fundamentalist or a nutter.

Solution to (a): chop it into its constituent books, most of which can be browsed in an hour or two. Solution to (b): strip away every last lingering intimation of happy-clappy, socks-and-sandals, acoustic-guitar-and-tambourine gauziness; make it cool (but serious), sober (but chic).

You'd think one of the big publishing houses would have done it years ago. But they didn't, which left an enticing void in the market for an enterprising small publisher. That publisher is Canongate, an independent house based on Edinburgh's Royal Mile and run, for the past four years, by the eminently enterprising Jamie Byng. Next week sees the publication of the first 12 Pocket Canons: neat, portable, suave slices from the King James version.

"It started in December 1996," Byng explains, "with a phone call from a friend who has nothing to do with publishing, and had been looking around bookshops for one of the books of the Bible, and noticed that no general trade publisher seemed

ever to have done them as individual books, and he was curious. Was there any reason why not? Was it too expensive? What did I think of it as an idea? And I said: 'I think it's a great idea ...' And I immediately thought, what we have to do is commission introductions, get interesting writers of all kinds to offer ways into those particular books."

Byng duly contacted a dozen appropriate writers – mostly non-believers – and brought in a hot young designer, Angus Hyland. From next week, you will be able to walk into a bookshop, hand over a quid and receive an elegant, black-jacketed 14x108mm edition of *Genesis* (introduced by the biologist Steven Rose), or *Revelations* (Will Self), or *Matthew* (AN Wilson), *Mark* (Nick Cave), *Luke* (Richard Holloway), *Bishop of Edinburgh* (John Blake Morrison), *Job* (Louis de Bernières), *Ecclesiastes* (Doris Lessing) ...

The response has already been far greater than even Byng anticipated. *The Sunday Times* in Scotland has bought 100,000 copies of *Job* to give away; the Spanish newspaper *El País* ran two full pages about the venture, and printed a translation of Nick Cave's essay on its review front; WH Smith and other chains are gearing up for a major pre-Christmas sales campaign, and Byng has sold the rights to the series to Germany, Spain, Greece, Italy, Australia and the United States, though some of the introductions in those countries will be written by local authors.

It's by far the biggest enterprise Canongate have ever taken on, and only a few years ago it would have been unthinkable. Founded in 1973, the company had specialised mainly in books on Scottish themes. It was well-respected, and achieved a couple of coups – Alasdair Gray's *Lauren*, Charles Palliser's *The Quincunx* – but had a rough time of it financially, and went into receivership in 1994. A management buy-out led to Byng's appointment as director. This was exceptionally rapid promotion: two years earlier, a graduate in English from Edinburgh University, Byng had been an unpaid dogsbody, helping with photocopying and mail-shots.

But he'd already shown a flair for marketing; it was a publicity stunt which won him a job at Canongate in the first place. "My wife and I were running a club called Chocolate City, and we'd advertise it by buying hundreds of mini-munchies from

the Cash and Carry, then sit in the pub unwrapping them and re-wrapping them with our flier. I sent one of these off to Stephanie Scott Murray who was running Canongate at the time, and she was particularly hungry that morning, so she called me in and we hit it off."

Before long, Byng had proved that he knew about books as well as advertising. He could talk persuasively to literary editors, and began to bring titles into the company. Put in charge of the ailing concern, he turned it around. Since October 1994, when Byng took over, the company has quadrupled its turnover, which this year is forecast at around £2 million. More dramatically, Byng has transformed it into a house with an international profile, courted at the Frankfurt Book Fair, recognised from New York to Tokyo. For one of the forthcoming titles on the Autumn list, *Dreamer*, by the noted black novelist and academic Charles Johnson, Byng out-bid the likes of Faber and Picador.

Financial incentives aside, one of the reasons Johnson opted to be published by Canongate is that he looked at the company's back list and saw that it had reprinted books by the likes of Langston Hughes, Chester Himes, Gil Scott-Heron, Iceberg Slim and other black American authors – all published under one of the two subsidiary imprints Byng introduced. Payback, Byng had originally been inspired by these writers at university – "I did my dissertation on 'The Development of the Black Oral Tradition and the Hip Hop Lyric'."

Byng's second innovation came in 1996, when he recruited Kevin Williamson, the co-editor of the underground magazine *Rebel Inc* (which had published early work by Irvine Welsh) to set up a Rebel Inc imprint, to encourage new fiction and reprint "counter-cultural classics" – Richard Brautigan, Nelson Algren, Alexander Trocchi, Knut Hamsun et al. Byng's other great publishing coup of 1998 – a limited edition of *Snowblind*, Robert Sabag's *Rebel Inc* classic about the cocaine trade, designed by Damien Hirst.

Copies aren't ready yet, but Byng gleefully shows me some of the component parts: a cover made of reinforced glass mirror; stainless steel mock-American Express cards, which will be fixed to a ribbon and used as a bookmark; the rolled hundred dollar bills that will be inserted into a die-cut hole in each text.



Jamie Byng of Canongate and mastermind behind the hip re-launch of 'The Holy Bible'

Colin McPherson

They haven't even advertised it yet, but the orders are rolling in. If you fancy one, it will set you back the price of 1,000 Pocket Canons.

Projects like the Hirst *Snowblind*, Byng says, are the reason he loves Canongate and can never imagine leaving it for one of the big publishing houses, no matter the in-

ducements. "I think editors at bigger publishing houses would have a really hard time making something like that happen, they just couldn't push it through because it's too off-the-wall and potentially too controversial, but that's not a problem for us. It's a real privilege to have that much freedom."

Byng's now busy commissioning the second set of Pocket Canons, due out for Easter 1999: "introductions" include Ruth Rendell on *Romans*, Alasdair Gray on *Jonah*, Marina Warner on *Tobit* ... and possibly A.N. Other rock star ("please don't publish his name") on *Psalms*. The series has called down the ire of one

fundamentalist, who has tried, unsuccessfully, to have Canongate prosecuted for blasphemy, but Byng suspects that, unlike some of the Rebel Inc projects, there will be little condemnation or commination. "I imagine most Christians will welcome the series."

To which sentiments, amen.

REVELATIONS

BILLY BRAGG, ACTON, 1981

The army made a man of me

EVERY MORNING on my way to a casual job, Artexing a ceiling for a mate, I had to walk past the Army Recruiting Centre in Acton and it seemed to beckon me in. I knew my destiny lay through those doors. I was 23 years old, punk had been and gone and come to nothing. It was a great disappointment because I thought we were going to change the world: the Clash by playing songs and me by going to Clash gigs.

The band I had been in for a couple of years had just broken up. We'd been based in Uxbridge, east Northamptonshire – not quite the headquarters of rock. You only needed short hair and straight trousers to be the Kings of Punk. However, I'd been an important person to the youth of that town, so returning to live at my mother's in Barking was a big comedown. The Artex would drop onto my face and I thought: I can't be doing with this. However, all I was educated to do was work at the Ford motor company at Dagenham. I'd been taken to the main body plant a couple of times by the careers officer from school and it was like Hades. Looking at the faces of the men, I knew I could never back it; not being skilled with my hands, I would have just been working the line – forever.

However, I'd run out of other options and was turning into an old no good to nobody. So finally walking through the door of that Army Recruiting Centre, I felt back in control again. I'd stopped drifting, I told the off-

icer I had two conditions: "I want to drive a tank and I don't want to go to Northern Ireland." Strangely enough, I'd chosen the Irish Hussars, which actually were a tank regiment, being Irish, they also didn't do tours of duty in Northern Ireland. So I signed up for nine years.

My decision was not just out of the blue – a number of things contributed. Thatcher had been elected, Reagan had just got in, Brezhnev had died and martial law had been declared in Poland. I was convinced something was coming to a head and thought: "where do I want to be when the big one goes off? Sitting on my arse in Barking, watching *Nationside*, or actually be there, know it's going to happen and go in the first half hour?" I decided I didn't want to be left behind searching for my mum in the rubble.

Looking back, I also think I needed something to measure myself against. My father had died in 1976 when I was 18 years old. It took a year and half for the lung cancer to kill him, just as I was old enough to square up to him. He'd been a tank driver in the Second World War, staying in India until partition, and it was very much part of my childhood. His death was the day that childhood ended. I gathered everything out of my room and put it in the attic. It was so tragic, I had just wanted it behind me.

Not being the athletic type, I failed my medical and was sent to a special place in Sutton Coldfield for four weeks PE



It is our contradictions which make us interesting. Rock'n'roll rebel without a regiment, Billy Bragg

until I could do enough chin-ups to make the grade. It was a laugh. So it was not until I'd got to Caterick in Yorkshire that I realised I'd made a cock-up. It was another planet, I don't think I'd ever been that far north. I felt very culturally isolated; when Bob Marley died, I asked the corporal to stay up and watch the tribute on TV. His death was really tragic but no one else gave a hoot. What's more, having shown an affinity to black culture, I was scapegoated.

After the first couple of days, some of the lads decided they wanted out and left. The

sergeant explained how at the end of the 90 days, we could sign ourselves out, but to give the army a proper try. It made perfect sense to me. I needed something to push against and this was exactly what I asked for – it was sink or swim.

There was so much pent-up sexuality with all these young guys around that a Nolans album in the NAAFI shop took on deeply significant proportions. While supposedly looking at the Marnite, my daily visit was not complete without copying a butchers at the cover, particularly Bernadette. (Recently, while on holiday at Wey-

mouth, I saw the Nolans were on the pier with Cannon and Ball; it all came back to me.) Eventually, the officers brought up the subject of "clearing your curfew" and for the last month of the course, each Sunday lunch time we could buy a porno mag. We were advised: "don't all buy the same one, you idiots, with four guys together in a room they could last you the week!" In close proximity to other people, you learn some important things. Until I was in the Boy Scouts, I thought I was the only person in the entire world who masturbated!

I had a bit of a lip on me, so surprise, surprise, my boot-laces and belt were taken off me and I was marched down the block house a couple of times. I remember being in the classroom when they told us what to do on the battlefield if there was a nuclear explosion. For radiation fall-out, we were told to dig a shallow trench and put 14 inches of earth over the top of us. So I piped up: "Is that so the pioneer corps can just come along and put a headstone down?" I thought it was a perfectly rational point!

Although most people wouldn't think of me as a natural for the British Army, I was almost the best recruit! But I decided it was not for me and bought myself out. Walking out of Caterick, I felt sorted. I'd had to live on my wits and come out on top. I wouldn't recommend it to anybody as a sab-batical but it did focus me; where else did I get the

courage to get up on stage and perform on my own?

I felt I finally had something to measure myself against my dad. He enjoyed the armed forces and was good at it and so was I. Fathers are difficult creatures and when they're not around, it's even harder. But I could now say: "Look what I've done. Dad, I'm not a total time-waster." So my time in the army made me feel closer to him. For a long time, I didn't think about or talk about him to anyone, but now I find myself on a rainy day in Dorset at Bodington Tank Museum with my little boy showing him the model his grandfather drove and the Chiefstain I was training to drive.

I never realised how complex I was until my biographer made me think about myself. However, it is our contradictions which make us interesting. I know being in the army is not politically correct, but life is not PC, and if you want to defeat your enemy, first learn their songs. Recently, I walked past the Army Recruiting Centre in Acton, but it has been knocked down to make way for a super-market. Is that progress?

Billy Bragg's official biography, *Still Suitable for Minors*, written by Andrew Collins, is published by Virgin, priced £12.99. His latest album, *Mermaid Avenue*, is on East West records and he tours from 20 October until 14 November.

INTERVIEW BY

ANDREW G MARSHALL

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A courageous new novel breaks taboos to tell the secret story of a Caribbean sexual awakening. By Marina Salandy-Brown

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HEALTH

There's
a killer
on the
run...

Meningitis is the disease that every parent dreads. But the fightback has begun. By Jeremy Laurance

Good news is not what we have come to expect from meningitis. It is a fearsome disease, dreaded equally by parents and doctors, trailing tales of tragedy, not triumph. Parents worry for their children about a disease that attacks with unnerving speed and ferocity, and doctors worry for their reputations, for it is notoriously easy to miss. Lucy Prescott's symptoms were diagnosed as tonsillitis, after which she was prescribed antibiotics and painkillers. Two days later, she was critically ill in hospital, although she went on to make a full recovery.

Yet, there is encouraging progress in the battle against meningitis. The war is far from over but advances are being made against one of the most devastating illnesses of modern times. Today, Tessa Jowell, the health minister, will climb aboard a London bus full of children who have survived meningitis to mark the launch of this year's Meningitis Awareness Campaign.

The children, who are testimony to the advances made against the disease, will seek to remind doctors and parents that because meningitis can kill in hours, minutes cannot be wasted. Early diagnosis and urgent treatment provide the best hope of recovery.

The message is getting through. Despite the huge rise in cases in recent years, the death rate is sharply down. There are even signs that the disease may have peaked. Last winter saw the first fall in total cases of meningococcal disease, the commonest and severest form of meningitis, for six years.

Since the winter of 1991-92, the annual toll has doubled from 1,200 cases to over 2,500 in 1996-97, the highest for 50 years. The increase is thought to be due to greater awareness and better recording, but no one really knows why it should have risen so far and so fast. It is still well below the epidemic of the early 1940s when

cases rose to a peak of 13,000 a year. It is too soon to tell whether last winter's dip is a blip or the beginning of a downward trend but it is the first encouraging sign this decade.

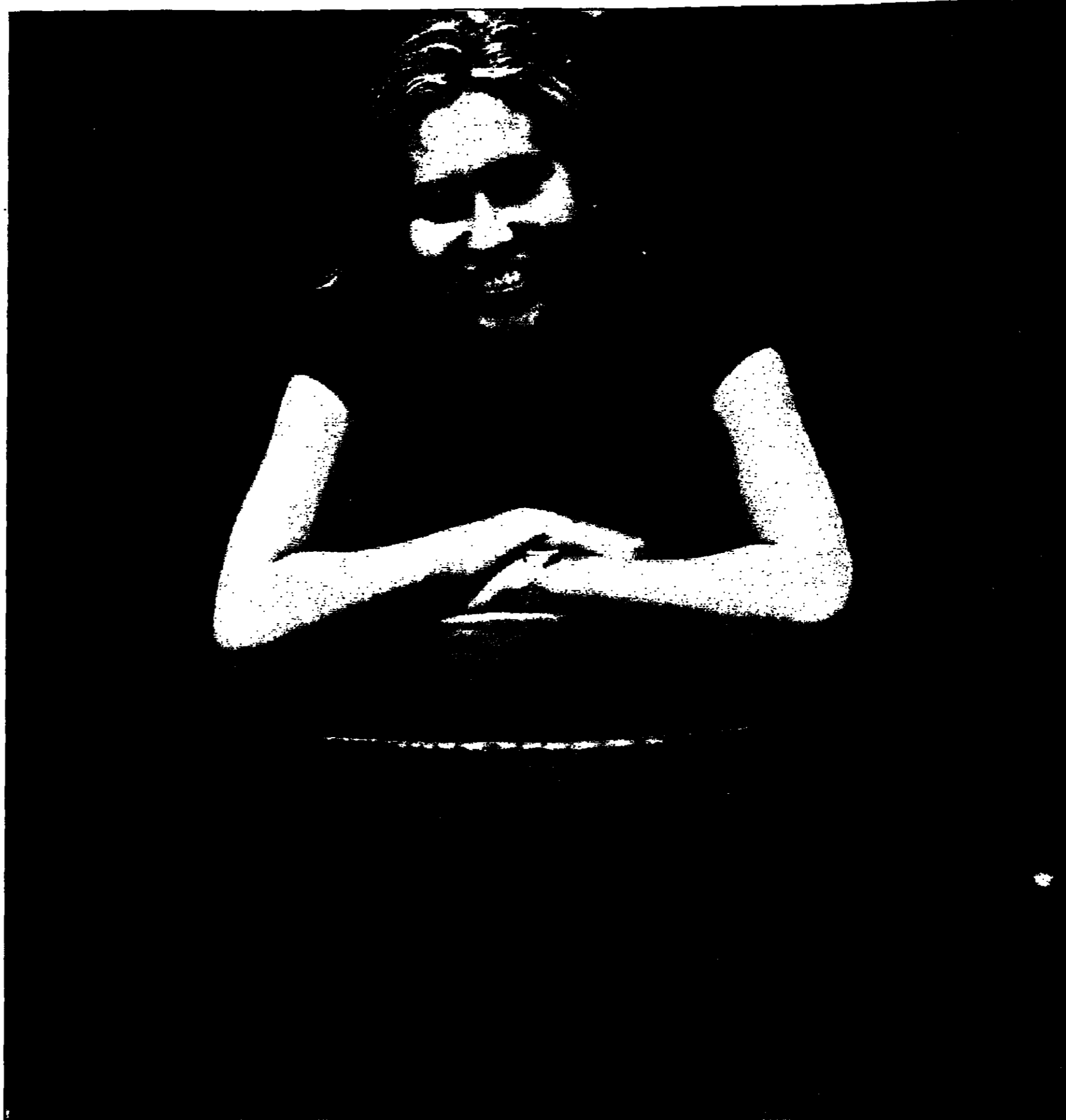
The chances of any individual diagnosed with meningitis surviving to tell the tale have dramatically improved during the 1990s, in spite of the rise in cases. The reason is greater recognition of the need for immediate treatment with antibiotics and improved care. The death rate from meningococcal septicaemia – blood poisoning, and the most serious complication of meningitis – fell from almost 60 per cent in 1989 to under 20 per cent in 1997. Overall, for every 100 people who developed meningococcal meningitis last year, more than 90 survived.

Too many still die. In 1997, there were 243 deaths. The only sure defence against this fatal illness would be a vaccine given in infancy and providing lifelong protection.

Last week scientists revealed a real hope of developing a vaccine against the Group C strain of the disease, the fastest growing one, which accounts for 40 to 50 per cent of all cases. Trials have shown promising results that it could provide lifelong protection from infancy.

Dr David Salisbury, principal medical officer at the health department, which is backing the trials by the Government's Public Health Laboratory Service, said: "The studies will take one to two years to complete. The results so far are very exciting. The vaccine is given at two months of age and produces a fantastic level of antibodies and appears remarkably safe."

Dr Salisbury said progress was also being made towards the development of a Group B vaccine, which caused over half of all cases of meningitis, but that would take longer. Once the studies were complete, there would be a further delay before manufacturers could apply for a licence and produce the vaccine in



Lucy Prescott, a survivor of meningitis whose symptoms were mistaken as tonsillitis

George Phillips

commercial quantities. Details of research on the vaccine were given at a press conference chaired by the Government's chief medical officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, making one of his last appearances in the post – he retires this week to take up a post as vice-chancellor of Durham University. He said the public and GPs should be vigilant for signs of the disease and act quickly where it was suspected.

"The diagnosis is difficult and

the symptoms are often like flu. Any flu-like illness that occurs outside the flu season should be treated with great care," he said.

Sir Kenneth disclosed that students in Southampton, Leicester and Cardiff were being offered vaccination against meningitis because of the history of outbreaks among students in those cities, but it would not be offered to students elsewhere. The existing vaccine against the Group C strain is only partially

effective, lasts for one to two years and does not provide protection in infants under 18 months of age.

The worry about offering a partially effective vaccine, which is anyway active against only one strain of the disease, is that it may induce a false sense of security and lull individuals who fall ill into believing they cannot have meningitis so that they delay seeking medical help. Sir Kenneth said that the decision to vaccinate had been taken by the three

universities concerned and was not appropriate for all students.

There has been great concern about meningitis outbreaks among students, although the peak age is in infants under one. Cases are high in children up to the age of five and the disease kills more children between one and four than any other single factor. A second, smaller peak occurs around the age of 15 onwards and drops off by the age of 18 or 19.

Sir Kenneth said every minute

counted in the management of meningitis and parents of babies who were floppy, unresponsive and unwell with a rash should apply the glass test. Under a glass tumbler, a normal rash disappears but a meningococcal rash does not – time for urgent medical attention. "Be aware, be alert and be active," he said.

The Meningitis Research Foundation operates a 24-hour helpline on 01454 413344

A fatal case of hypochondria. It happens. And it's usually to men

Males often over-play their illnesses – or are females just unsympathetic? By Dr Ed Walker

ACCORDING TO A survey last week, carried out by the makers of Benlylin, men are hypochondriacal wimps when compared to women. This is at least in part borne out by personal experience. One subgroup of male patients attending the emergency department where I work are without doubt the worst over-exaggerators of symptoms you could ever come across.

They are the martial arts brigade – karate, judo and the like. As patients, they always attend surrounded by two or three colleagues, who support and half-carry the limping victim through the door. They have usually been kicked by someone – and that person's feet are trained to kill, I am informed.

A foot that can break breeze blocks can surely shatter a tibia. But when the injured part is exposed, all you usually find is the tiniest imaginable bruise. It is considered bad form not to provide any treatment to such a patient, and they usually limp out with the medically unnecessary, but culturally mandatory, tubular bandage. But the most stoical group of patients, verging on the masochistic, are also men. Rugby players are well known for having their fractured noses straightened pitch-side before playing on. What is less well recognised is the number that will play on with broken ankles and, on one occasion, train for a season with a potentially fatal unstable neck fracture.

The term "hypochondria" comes from the name of an area of the body called, unsurprisingly, the hypochondrium. It is the part just below the bottom of the ribcage, where the cartilage of the ribs joins the breastbone. It is also the area where many people experience the vague flutterings, aches and twinges often attributed incorrectly to serious disease. Hence the term being adopted to describe anyone who persistently worries about their



When it comes to illness, men are the weaker sex

health, or leads unwarranted significance to their symptoms. Doctors are reluctant to tell patients there is absolutely nothing wrong with them, at least until they have been thoroughly investigated. And some patients, even when they have had every test known to medical science, are even more reluctant to accept the diagnosis. This is why a serious case of hypochondria can be fatal these days. A patient may be referred initially by their GP to a general surgeon for investigation of "abdominal bloating". The surgeon finds nothing

wrong, and refers to a gynaecologist, who decides that the back ache is more significant, and refers on to an orthopaedic surgeon. The orthopaedist decides to operate on the patient's back, but after all this they still have the problem they started with. So the original surgeon opens up the abdomen to have a look inside, having turned up nothing on X-ray and ultrasound. The patient dies from post-operative complications, and a post-mortem reveals nothing wrong at all, apart from the damage caused by all the surgery and tests. It happens.

One place where male hypochondria certainly can be found is among medical students. I decided at one time that I had the early symptoms of ankylosing spondylitis, a crippling disease that eventually fuses the spine into a solid rod. All I really had was a trapped nerve in the back. And a friend, after a lot of reading, came up with the idea that he had a rare cancer of the lymph glands. His diagnostic skills were a bit more impressive however, because he unfortunately turned out to be right.

From the results of the Benlylin survey it seems men over-play their illnesses more than women. Or rather that's what the women thought they did, which is not quite the same thing. Women were asked about male partners' behaviour, and vice versa. Men were more likely to describe their viral upper respiratory tract infections as "flu" and transform themselves into a pathetic women just called it a cold and got on with their lives. Another interpretation could be that women are less sympathetic about men's illnesses than men about women, but that doesn't make for such a good story.

Blotched by the sun

When I returned from holiday my chest and back were covered with small, white round patches which completely ruined my suntan. What are they and how can I get rid of them?

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

You probably have pityriasis versicolor, a fungal infection of the skin caused by a yeast with the delightful name of *Malassezia furfur*. You may have had it for quite a long time, but it has only become noticeable because of your suntan. The yeast affects the pigmentation of the skin. The rash that it causes is usually white on brown skin, and brown on white skin, and it can be slightly scaly. You can treat it with anti-fungal creams (Canesten or Dak-tarin) from the chemist, or by dabbing Selsun shampoo on the spots and leaving it on for 24 hours before washing it off. It is often quite difficult to eradicate, so be persistent.

Is there any effective way to treat snoring? I've tried sewing a cotton reel into the back of my husband's pyjamas, but that has only succeeded in giving him a sore back.

Snoring is common and, unlike most medical problems,

it causes more suffering to others than to the person who has it affected by it. One research study showed that five to 10 per cent of people snore loudly enough to be heard in the next room. It can be caused by big tonsils or a small, receding chin that allows the jaw to slide backwards. Some people who snore have sleep apnoea, which causes them to stop breathing for short periods while they are asleep. Too much alcohol and some sedative drugs can also contribute to snoring. If you are overweight, it may make you snore. Correcting any of these causes may help snoring. For people with a jaw problem, it is possible to have a custom-made splint fitted to hold the jaw forwards, and this can be very effective. Some ear, nose and throat specialists have a special interest

in snoring problems. If yours is severe it might be worth getting some specialist advice.

I am awakened every hour or two at night by the need to empty my bladder, although it is not full. During the day I am fine. Why this difference between day and night? And where is the "water" stored which keeps re-filling my bladder? I am over 80 and had my prostate removed many years ago.

There are likely to be at least two separate factors contributing to your problem. First is your bladder, which sounds as though it has become rather irritable. This means that the bladder wants to empty itself even when it is not full. For some reason this is often worse at night, perhaps because there is nothing to distract from the sensation of wanting to go to the toilet. The second factor is related to how your body controls the production of urine. Normally, the amount of urine we produce is reduced at night, but this natural day-night rhythm can be less pronounced as you get older. The water isn't stored – it is continually being filtered out of your bloodstream by the kidneys.

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Poison on our plates

The man blew the whistle on BSE has written a truly frightening book. By Jerome Burne

While reading this book, my children were playing a tape of the tale of The Emperor's New Clothes. Its moral was clear: that pointing out the truth to authority is not only the right thing to do, but it also brings rewards. In the real world, however, pointing out inconvenient truths is rarely appreciated, as Professor Richard Lacey has painfully discovered over the past 15 years.

The man who blew the whistle not only on BSE but also on salmonella, listeria and cook-chill has been forced out of his job, suffered death threats and been dubbed the "mad professor" - a hysteric who was academically out of his depth. Last week, at the British Association for the Advancement of Science festival, I was confidentially told that he was a bit too fond of the media and had ventured out of his field over BSE. This about a man who wrote one of the definitive scientific review papers on the topic back in 1990 and on the day that a news story indicated that BSE could have passed to sheep. A lot of effort went into blackening Lacey's name.

It is now clear that the BSE crisis was appallingly handled. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), other Whitehall departments and the ministers involved were all astoundingly economical with the truth when it came to informing the public about what they knew or, at least, what they suspected. The policy was to avoid admitting anything that might damage the interests of farmers and food producers, regardless of the possible dangers to the public health. In *Poison on a Plate: the dangers of the food we eat and how to avoid them* (Metro, £12.99), Lacey, clearly and straightforwardly, details one fudge and lie after another. It is a shocking read.

For example, the one detail of the BSE story that everyone remembers is that the cows probably developed the disease when they were fed ground-up animal protein. Turning herbivores into cannibals is so horrible it sticks in the mind. What Lacey makes clear, however, is that, although it hardly put farmers in a good light, this explanation suited the farming lobby and their allies such as MAFF very well. It provided an explanation of how the whole thing started and, by implication, meant that the trouble should be over once the practise stopped.

But while it may have been a factor as far back as 1988 the government suspected that it wasn't the only one. Another possibility with far more horrifying implications, was that BSE could be passed from a cow to her calves. Lacey had suggested as much in 1990 and was dismissed as ignorant and hysterical. However, by that time the government had already carried out top secret tests of precisely this theory.

By 1993 it was clear that it could happen, and eventually it emerged that it occurred in more than 10 per cent of cases where the mother was infected and nearly 5 per cent where she wasn't. Yet no-one officially



Feeding ground-up animals to cattle was certainly an element in the development of BSE

Brian Harris

admitted the fact until last year. What that means is that animal protein in cattle feed isn't the only source of BSE; and it raises the possibility that infected humans could pass it on to their offspring.

But the book is remarkably free from "I told you so". He does allow himself a pat on the back when the Government sets up the Food Standards Agency, promises more openness about public health issues and sets up an enquiry to investigate the whole sorry affair - all things he had been agitating for for years.

What the book does show clearly is that BSE was a disaster waiting to happen. The food scares that first brought Lacey to prominence in the Eighties - salmonella and listeria - were dry runs for what happened later. In each case the instinctive response of the ministry was to deny, delay and ignore. Lacey used the media because there were no other channels open to him. Again, the cumulative detail is shocking.

For instance, it emerges that while MAFF was denying that there was any problem with salmonella-

infected flocks, it had already spent three years agonising over how much to tell the public about secret reports detailing the level of infection. Similarly, the dangers of both

The decision not to institute a slaughter programme will prove the biggest disaster both in suffering and hard cash a British government has ever taken in peace time

listeria and E.coli 0157 were known long before preventable outbreaks of infection killed dozens of people.

But it's all right now isn't it? Matters are certainly better, although the number of food poisoning cases continues to rise. Some

safety standards have been tightened, and Labour's promises of more openness means that the kind of blatant evasions we saw under the Tories should be harder. But there is still the great unknown hanging over BSE. It obviously has infected humans and, although so far there are only officially 27 dead, for a number of reasons that may be a gross underestimate.

What no one knows is how many have been infected by this terrible disease. Hundreds? Thousands? Millions? Lacey pumps for the grim figure of a 5 per cent death rate from CJD (the form BSE takes in humans) in the UK population within the next 10 years. He believes the decision not to institute a major slaughter programme in 1990 will turn out to be "the biggest disaster both in suffering and in hard cash that a British government has ever taken in peace time". Other experts believe he is being wildly alarmist.

The truth is that we just don't know because there has not been the sort of concentrated research campaign into BSE that was brought to

bear on the comparable crisis of Aids. There is not an inkling of a cure, we don't know how BSE is transmitted, and the only way of telling whether animals or humans are infected is by a post-mortem or by taking a brain tissue sample when symptoms are well advanced.

One lesson from the book stands out. The food on our plates suddenly became more dangerous as a result of technological developments that changed the way our food was raised or prepared. Freezing, convenience foods and the microwave contributed to the earlier food-poisoning scares, while feeding animal protein to herbivores was an element in BSE. These all had unforeseen effects that allowed otherwise harmless microbes to colonise new territory - the human gut or brain.

Now genetic engineering promises to make equally wide-ranging changes in the nature of our foods, and it is also backed by very wealthy vested interests. Will anyone take notice of the watchdogs when they bark next time around, or will we have to wait until the children start dying?

Sad? Here's cause to be glad

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

OH DEAR. The world is becoming a more miserable place, according to the Government's chief medical officer. Prescriptions for antidepressants - chiefly Prozac and its relatives - leapt 19 per cent among men and 15 per cent among women in just two years from 1994.

Sir Kenneth Calman, who noted the figures in his seventh and final annual report, *On the State of the Public Health, 1997*, published last week, thinks this is worrying news, a sign of the excessive demands placed on people by modern life.

The rise appeared to indicate a genuine increase in suffering, rather than reckless prescribing and as such "it does merit looking into further", he said.

I beg to disagree. The rise in prescribing is a cause for celebration, not commiseration, a sign that at last misery is being taken seriously as a (frequently) treatable condition. Instead of staring gloomily into the abyss, Sir Kenneth, who retired this week to take up a post as vice-chancellor of the University of Durham, should be breaking open the champagne to mark one of the greater achievements of his reign as the nation's top doctor.

His pronouncement, however, had the predictable effect. Stories headlined, "This pill-popping nation" - belatedly our increasing reliance on pharmaceutical props. Sir Kenneth played up to the agenda - unwittingly, I suspect - that sees the stress of modern life as the source of all our ills.

Yet one of the most serious of our social ills is the unreasonable fear of psychoactive drugs. Depression exacts a huge toll of human suffering, much of it unnecessary because effective treatment is easily available.

It takes the lives of more than 4,000 people a year, many of them young, by suicide. Fear of the stigma of mental illness and professional reluctance to investigate emotional problems conspire to keep the suffering hidden.

Most people have no difficulty with the beta blockers prescribed to millions to control their blood pressure, or the insulin given to diabetics to control their glucose level, but suggest a pill to boost serotonin levels and they react as if confronted by a drug pusher. Surely, goes the standard response, people should be able to cope without such chemical aids.

Or, in the less charitable version, stop moaning and pull their socks up. Well, up to a point.

There are self-help techniques for dealing with depression - cognitive

strategies related to positive thinking, for example - as there are for holding blood pressure down - such as exercise. But many people find them impossible to apply or that they do not work. Then drugs should be an option.

Many reject drugs because they fear they will become dependent, but this is based on a misapprehension.

Antidepressants such as Prozac are not addictive, even after many years of use. They are chemically different from the benzodiazepine tranquilisers such as Valium, which are addictive, and which are now only used for short-term treatment of a few weeks.

There is also a deeper, moral, fear, typified by the "pill-popping" headlines. This is the view that doctors who hand out Prozac should be classed with barmen pouring whiskies or dealers selling lines of cocaine. It, too, is based on a misapprehension.

Antidepressants do not provide pleasure, they restore the capacity for pleasure.

Depression drains the pleasure, as well as the point, from life. People in its grip lose the sense of their own value and then of the value of anything. They fear being taken for malingers and often feel to blame for their condition. The shame adds to the depression. People taking the drugs for the first time are often surprised at how their mood has lifted without their feeling beholden.

The drugs do not induce euphoria - they restore normal functioning so that sufferers can get on with their lives.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists launched a five-year campaign in 1992 to counter the stigma of depression and encourage more people to seek treatment.

It has now been extended for a further three years under the auspices of the National Depression Campaign, an umbrella group.

The rise in prescribing is testimony to its success. But there is a lot further to go.

Give them understanding, not just drugs

Despite research suggesting Ritalin can calm children with ADHD, some experts question the wisdom of relying on an amphetamine. By Roger Dobson

IT HAD, admits Michele Riley, been a bad morning. Her eight-year-old son Aaron had smashed his wardrobe then broken through a locked door into the kitchen before anyone else was awake, leaving a trail of devastation.

"He had got £5-worth of meat out of the fridge and fed it to the cats, then drunk a litre of juice without diluting it and left the fridge door open. He'd got sweets and crisps out, mixed them all on the floor and in the cat litter tray. And then we found he had broken his wardrobe door", she says.

But 20 minutes or so later after the hyperactive Aaron had taken his pill, all is quiet and peaceful in the Riley household in Essex.

"I leave it for 20 to 30 minutes after I have given him the tablet and then I ask him to get ready for school and he says, 'Yes mummy' and then he'll say something like, 'Is there anything I can do for you mummy?' Once he has had his tablet he is a totally different boy," explains Mrs Riley.

Aaron, like his five-year-old brother Martin, has been diagnosed as having attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, and the tablets he takes up to three times a day are Ritalin. New research published this week at a British Psycho-

logical Society conference says that the classroom behaviour of school children on Ritalin improves to the level of children who do not have ADHD. The work, by Rebecca Shaw at Dundee University, found that medication worked better than increased supervision.

But many critics attack the very idea of giving an amphetamine-family drug to children. They also fear that Britain is following the trend in America, where several million children are on Ritalin and some schools report having one-in-four pupils on the medication.

Few conditions and treatment therapies involving children are as controversial as ADHD and Ritalin. At one extreme, it is claimed that five per cent of all children have ADHD and need treatment, while at the other, critics deny the very existence of the disorder and say that drugs dampen what is merely youthful exuberance.

In Britain the number of children being given Ritalin has rocketed over the last six years, according to new figures. In 1992, only 2,000 prescriptions were issued, but in the last 12 months that annual figure had shot up to nearly 100,000 and appears to be more than doubling every year. This does not include drugs given by hospitals to children or those pre-



ADHD-affected children act before they think and are less satisfied with rewards

scribed by private practitioners. One of the problems with ADHD is the difficulty of diagnosis because the symptoms are non-specific and in many cases similar to those seen in a dysfunctional family.

But according to Dr Christopher Green, child care specialist and the co-author of *Understanding ADHD*, it is a real disorder that has been known about for the best part of a century.

"When we talk about ADHD we refer to a slight but demonstrable difference in normal brain function that causes a clever child to underachieve academically and to behave poorly, despite receiving the highest standard of parenting," he explains.

He says that ADHD is caused by a minor difference in the fine tuning of the brain due to an imbalance in the neurotransmitter chemicals, nor-

adrenaline and dopamine. This imbalance is mostly found in those parts of the brain responsible for putting the brakes on unwise behaviour.

The result is that affected children act before they think, do not consider the implications of a sequence of events and are less satisfied with rewards.

In the USA, ADHD is treated almost universally as an organic disease, with the use of medication, mostly the stimu-

lant Ritalin. In the UK, drug therapy has traditionally been used far less frequently and the symptoms have often been diagnosed and treated with behaviour therapy or counselling.

Dr Alyson Hall, consultant child psychiatrist at the Royal London Hospital, says that in Britain psychiatrists have been careful not to view drug therapy as a panacea for all child behavioural problems.

"There is a small core of children that require medication, but it is a difficult diagnosis to make. Ritalin is an amphetamine derivative and improves concentration. It works by allowing children to stop and think", she says. "Use here varies and some psychiatrists are reluctant to use it, or are philosophically opposed to it."

In the USA there is a backlash against the huge amounts of Ritalin being used. The international pressure group Parents Against Ritalin (PAR) has been active in campaigning and a number of teachers and psychiatrists are also opposing its use with the slogan, "Education not medication".

One of the most vocal of the opponents is Maryland psychiatrist Dr Peter Breggin, who says that the stimulants work by suppressing and controlling children and not by treating any biological problem.

He says the drugs work by making many children robotic, lethargic, depressed and withdrawn. "In the short term, Ritalin suppresses creative, spontaneous and autonomous activity in children, making them more docile and obedient", he says. He also warns, "In the long run we are giving our children a very bad lesson, that drugs are the answer to emotional problems."

But parents like Mrs Riley, who runs the Essex ADHD Family Support Group reject those views.

"Aaron is my oldest child and we knew from day one that there was something different. He was alert all day, he couldn't be put down, he was crying all the time, and he wanted to be involved with everything."

"On one occasion I went to the doctor and told him I felt like either walking out or throwing my son across the room. He turned round and said, 'Why not throw him across the room, I would if he was my son'."

"But I told him I couldn't do that and eventually we went to an assessment centre where they tried him on a quarter of the tablet and it worked such wonders on him, we couldn't believe it. His brother Martin also has ADHD. He has tried Ritalin but it didn't seem to work with him."

Mrs Riley says she is tired of the critics of the ADHD diagnosis and the drug treatment. "I try to explain that the children can't help themselves when they are in one of their tantrums, but there are a lot of ignorant people out there who assume it is a naughty child."

"Because of that, you tend to stick with the people you know. We have walked away from many people we have been friends with for years. It's hard, but you have to just carry on."

The ADHD Family Support Group, 1a High Street, Dilton Marsh, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 4DL, has a helpline on 01733 826045

Essex ADHD Family Support Group 01702 30545

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MARIE STOPS HEALTH CLINICS

If you really want to know, look in the mirror

Funny things, mirrors. But what's really interesting about them is how they reveal human drama. By Tom Lubbock

Jonathan Miller has done it with mirrors before. Last year, for instance, there was an opera programme on television, and he was rehearsing the closing love duet from *The Coronation of Poppea*. He directed the singers to sing it face to face, palms pressed to palms—as though they were each other's mirror images, either side of the glass.

I imagine that the idea was prompted partly by the duet's echoing cadences, partly by a sort of pun on its first line, "Pur ti miro" ("I gaze on you"). And the implied thought, that Nero and Poppea's serene ecstasy is really a mutual narcissism, was perfectly apt. Note that in this brilliant bit of staging no actual mirrors were involved.

There are plenty to be seen in *Mirror Image*, a concept-show devised and curated by Dr Miller at the National Gallery. Mirrors in pictures is the theme, plus reflective surfaces generally. It is rather a Science Museum affair. As well as a very choice assembly of paintings and prints, there are large explanatory wall-boards, and large colour copies of relevant but unobtainable works (such as a full-size repro of Velázquez's *Las Meninas*).

There are diagrams and demo-models, mug's guides to the physics of light and the psychology of perception. And there is fun stuff, like a two-way mirror and a mirror that pretends to be a through-doorway. A lecture by Ernst Gombrich with interventions from Harry Worth, that is the tone.

Now it seems to me that a person can be too interested in pictures with mirrors in them. At least, a view of art which is liable to make M.C. Escher seem as valuable as Velázquez must be a limited one. On the other hand, it may be that our artists have more in common with the world of Escher than I would like to admit. And obviously Western art, so obsessed with the look of the world and the act of looking, is bound to be drawn to looking glasses, because they are such visually weird things—in effect invisible objects, only shown by what you can see in them, and what you can see in them does not exist.

Mirrors are in some ways like pictures, in others not, but pictures tend to level all differences: put on canvas, a face and the reflection of a face may look indistinguishable, are equally intangible and equally real. I paraphrase Miller's own reflections on the subject. Most of what his



Narcissus, transfixed by his own beauty, in a painting by 'a follower of Leonardo' The National Gallery

captions say is true and interesting. Looking at Van Eyck's "Arnolfini Portrait", he points out that, if you concentrate on the image reflected in that famous round convex mirror, you no longer see the mirror as shiny—even though it is hard for us to shed the idea that the shininess of shiny things is a property independent of what they reflect. And he makes you very conscious of all those pairs of tiny white squares that occur in so many paintings—usually called highlights, but indicating reflected windows, windows that may lie well outside the picture's view. Reflections are often used to give a glimpse of a picture's "off-stage", the wider world around it.

So Miller uses pictures to demonstrate perception, and perception as a clue to pictures. Very good. He displays some beautiful and curious instances, like Johann Erdman Hummel's two pictures of a vast and highly polished granite bowl. But this approach risks being rather literal-minded about depiction, by presuming that pictures are normally records of something seen, painted on site. The truth is, pictures are often extremely cavalier about this. They put up a show of visual probability, then do something outrageous—but you are not really meant to notice.

Almost all pictures that show an object, a mirror and a reflection of that object, get the optical relations wrong. Ingres's *Madame Mollo* is a spectacular example: no way could the glass behind her reflect back her profile. Yet to see the image as impossible or paradoxical is to miss its point. Ingres wants to compose a two-fold image of his subject. Optics are just tools for use. Likewise, in the section devoted to self-portraits, though all the artists probably used a mirror in the process, one must recognise that while some are true to or curious about this fact, others are just not.

Well, perception is interesting and paradoxes are boring (yes, even those of *Las Meninas*, I am afraid). What one really wants to see is mirroring used, as Miller used it with that Monteverdi opera, to do human drama. There are excellent examples here. *A Man with a Mirror* (after Ribera) shows a man staring into a square mirror that he holds in front of him with both hands. It seems as if he is holding himself in his hands. In a lovely little Lucian Freud, *Small Interior*, a big free-standing mirror occupies almost the whole image, the artist standing reflected in it, and the mirror is as much a character as the man. Narcissus, by a follower of Leonardo, wins by

concentrating on the young man's gazing face, showing only the very edge of the pool and none of his reflection—good to leave it to the imagination, because in the myth it is his first time with a mirror and he does not know it is him.

And Gustave Callebote—what an intelligent artist! (He is not at all unknown, of course, this fringe Impressionist, but the news of just how good he was is still coming in.) In *Café* does the psychology of isolation simply and superbly and does it with a compendium of mirror effects. A man stands alone, a large café glass behind him; the two people chatting in the café, who he is looking at, only appear as reflections in it, an "off-stage" insert, made small and extra remote; so he seems to turn his back on them too and also upon his own reflection which shares a space with them; thus he is split from his social self. This splitting or doubling is one of the best ways pictures use mirrors.

But you may notice that all those are pictures of men, and it is a general truth. Women and mirrors usually do not get interesting pictorial treatment. Female vanity or male voyeurism is the rule, though it must be said that for cunning titillation, Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg's *Woman Standing in front of*

a Mirror is a neat piece of work. It uses a doubling effect to show the woman twice—naked but with her back to us, and her reflection facing us but cropped just above the nipples by the mirror's frame. A striptease, precisely.

The other big lesson here, not explicitly drawn, is oddly enough about artistic style. Dwelling on all these highlights and reflective surfaces makes you aware that shininess—how glossy a painter makes things look generally, or on the other hand how matt—is one of the great stylistic axes. Some artists create wet/polished worlds, others make dry/rough ones, and which you prefer is a very basic point of taste.

But no doubt there is much more to learn, and any viewer can think up further examples. Here is an oblique one, in the National Gallery itself: Jacob Jordaens' *The Holy Family*. The virgin holds up the baby, staring out earnestly, while his gaze drifts to the side. The scene (I interpret) is in front of a mirror, and seen from the mirror's point of view. She is saying "Look, it's you!"

Mirror Image—Jonathan Miller on Reflection: National Gallery, London; until 13 December; Admission £5.50, Concs £3.50

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART: STEVEN ANDERSON

"ULLO! ULLO! What's going on 'ere, then?" Answer: Well, Hung, Chris Evans's London art gallery, is giving 23-year-old Scottish painter Steven Anderson the first solo show of his self-portraits.

The huge paintings, up to 8ft by 8ft, are not as revealing as they look. The hidden clue is that they were inspired by an emergency operation to remove a brain abscess that Anderson underwent at the age of 17. He nearly died.

If that had happened to you, you might feel an urge to demonstrate to people that the life force is still with you. You might want to actually show it to them by pulling it out of your head, like a vivid membrane. Denied an explanation, however, the first-nighters at the show's opening last week decided that the red extrusion was not a metaphor but a pair of women's thighs. Which, indeed, they are.

Anderson persuaded his girlfriend to buy them from Marks and Spencer in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. They are large-size, the last pair in the shop. To make the self-portraits he strips, then pulls the thighs over his head, and confronts himself in a mirror—removing the thighs whenever he needs to see clearly to paint.

Self-confrontation is central to the process. That operation left emotional scars. "I felt I had to face what I was most scared of—that is, how I'm perceived by others. Although I did it for myself, I realised that I was painting for an audience."

Hence not only the vulnerable self-exposure of nakedness, but the relaxed and confident pose. He made sure to paint big, larger than life, and to place himself centre-stage. "I wanted the image to be essential, basic. It was not until I stripped off that the dynamics of what I was doing started to work. I began to feel vital, empowered."

But his confidence sagged on opening night. Apprehensive—justifiably, as it turned out—he arrived an hour-and-a-half late. A couple in their thirties told him they found the "distortions" disturbing. The wife said the images seemed to follow her when she visited other parts of the gallery. She did not want to stay too long because of their impact.

Half a dozen others had a go at him in the same way—an unusual response at an opening, where the standard drill is to face the centre of the room, ignore the artist, drink as much wine as possible, and

gossip. "I was surprised," says Anderson. "It had never occurred to me that there might be open criticism."

Did the first-nighters sense another hidden vein in his work? Witchcraft, perhaps? While in hospital, he was given a copy of John Baptista Porta's *Natural Magic* of 1558. It speaks of creating new living creatures out of putrefaction, the basis of life. The earlier paintings in Anderson's series are dark, the figures, putrid-looking, emerge from a primordial blackness. Only in the later ones does the vivid red triumph.

"Porta's book has an amazingly New Age feel about it. It discusses mental techniques for healing. Although I did the self-portraits instinctively, I afterwards came to realise that I was trying to paint out badness, such as the abscess. Painting was like making spells or affirmations. I wanted something positive to happen. I wanted to produce something beyond the normal body. What I show coming out of my head is a living thing."

Or, could the first-nighters' discomfort have been due to the fact that the paintings, although figurative, are loaded with conceptual content? The action of the figure is ritualistic and its nakedness, Anderson points out, "is the most powerful state to be in for spell-making—there should not be any added ingredients".

Even the technical accomplishment of the painting has, despite its anatomical accuracy, an ethereal quality. The outlines seem to be out of register—"like an aura, an extra dimension", says Anderson. The effect results from applying layer after layer of oil paint diluted with Shellac and Damar varnish, which show through one another, like watercolour. "That's how we're made ourselves," says Anderson, "in layers."

After four years at Glasgow School of Art, he came away with a lower second degree. He says staff changes had brought in more and more tutors who preferred conceptual to figurative art. But he stuck doggedly to figurative painting and drawing. No figurative painter in his year was awarded a degree higher than a lower second. "You could say I'm not driven by fashion," he says.

Prices: £450 to £3,000. To 26 September at Well Hung Gallery, 39 Ledbury Road, Notting Hill, London, W11 0JL (0171-727 1357)



THE INDEPENDENT

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The Independent on Sunday has chartered an entire Eurostar train to take readers to Paris. To claim a free seat for you and a partner, simply collect four tokens from The Independent/The Independent on Sunday and enter. Winners will be able to spend a weekend for a week-long break in the French capital (the choice of return journey is yours). There are no losers: unsuccessful applicants will be entitled to discounts of up to £50 on travel to Paris or Brussels.

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The closing date by which all entries must be received is Friday 26 September. The prize winners and runners up will be notified by Monday 5th October.

The prize winners will receive two tickets valid for 14 days from 1st October 1998. Each winner must travel with a partner on the same train and on the same day. Prizes will be awarded to the first 100 winners. Prizes will be awarded to the first 100 winners. Prizes will be awarded to the first 100 winners.

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MEDIA

The Independent Television Commission is under fire from a host of critics and vested interests. But, argues its chief executive, as the digital revolution sweeps the industry it must stand up for the interests of consumers. By Jane Robins

Is it time to call off the dogs?

Peter Rogers does not seem to have the weight of the world on his shoulders. Instead, he has the demeanour of a rather affable headmaster, slightly dismayed at the unruliness of his pupils.

And yet Mr Rogers, the chief executive of the Independent Television Commission (ITC), is under attack from all directions. First, there are those who say that the ITC should have no business deciding on whether or not *News at Ten* should be abolished – that such things should be left to the market.

In a second camp are the critics who assert that the ITC is out of its depth when it tries to regulate on economics, and that it has got itself into a mess trying to determine the shape of Britain's digital future. Rarely, since it was set up eight years ago, has the television regulator been so widely criticised.

The latest broadsides began at the recent Edinburgh International Television Festival. Peter Bazalgette, the television executive who delivered the prestigious MacTaggart lecture, declared that the age of the ITC was over; that the regulation of television content was redundant, as viewers had become grown-ups and could make their own choices.

The view was seconded by Elisabeth Murdoch, daughter of Rupert, and chief executive of Sky Networks. She spoke of an explosion of choice in television viewing, and of programming decisions no longer being enforced on people from the top down. "The public will decide," she said.

Mr Rogers leapt to his own de-

fence, and seemed very much like a senior figure from the old school taking on uppity young rebels. Then, before the week was out, he was presented with one of the most difficult "top down" decisions of his career. His organisation will, after consultation, have to decide whether the public gets to keep its *News at Ten*.

To some degree, Mr Rogers is caught between a rock and a hard place. Let *News at Ten* remain, and he will receive brickbats from the Bazalgettes and Murdochs who think a fixed time slot absurdly anachronistic when CNN, Sky and the BBC are all broadcasting 24 hours news on other channels.

Allow *News at Ten* to be abolished, and the majority of viewers who have not yet signed up to the new channels will, along with Tony Blair, doubtless voice complaints or even a sense of betrayal.

Mr Rogers acknowledges that he is at an uncomfortable juncture between television past and television future. He says that the ITC's decision on *News at Ten* must be based on the situation as it is now, not as it might be in a year or two's time. "Seventy per cent of people still have only terrestrial channels... and the decision will be harder in a few years when 60-70 per cent are receiving Sky and CNN."

Rogers, 57, is a grammar school boy who became a career civil servant before joining the ITC's predecessor the IBA in 1982. Working his way through the ranks, he reached the top job at the ITC in 1996. His approach hints that ITV may not get its way.

"A decision on *News at Ten* has



Peter Rogers, head of the ITC, has some tough choices ahead – such as a decision on the future of 'News at Ten'

Andrew Buurman

come before the Commission before," he says. "And it may come before the Commission again."

The second line of attack – on the ITC's forays into economic regulation – could cause the regulator permanent damage. It faces a legal argument that it has been acting beyond its powers – that it has become too big for its boots.

Mr Rogers smiles wryly when this is mentioned, and points out two large black files in his office, full of legal documents. The case, brought by programming company Flextech, is about a phenomenon known in the industry as "bundling" – the process whereby less popular television channels are bundled together with other more desirable channels to make one "package" which then goes on sale to the consumer.

There is a joke which explains bundling. Two mice are sitting together watching television. "Why are we watching the Kiddy Kat channel?" says one mouse. "Oh, we had to subscribe to the Kiddy Kat channel to get the cheese channel," replies the second.

Mr Rogers and the ITC outlawed "big bundles" of channels, even though bundling contracts had already been signed. They thought it unfair that subscribers to Sky or cable should have to buy into big basic packages of channels, which would include some channels which they simply did not want. Mr Rogers presents his decision as serving consumers' interests.

But the backlash from the television industry has been vicious. "The ITC does not understand the

market," is one allegation. "You can't interfere with contracts freely drawn up between two parties."

"The decision does not serve the consumer at all," is another. "It will mean the end of smaller niche channels, which need to hitch a ride with more populist channels. That reduces viewer choice."

Mr Rogers might well be on shaky ground. When questioned, he acknowledges that two other industry watchdogs, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and OFTEL, both reached different conclusions on bundling. They thought the market would sort out the big bundles – that Sky, cable and terrestrial providers would compete to offer smaller, lower priced packages.

"We thought this might happen in the fullness of time," says Mr

Rogers. "But not quickly enough. It was crucial that we intervened and that digital television got off on the right foot."

Many in the industry see this as a busy-body approach, asking not only whether the regulator should be interfering in such matters, but whether it has a role to "promote digital" at all. You don't have car industry regulators promoting hatchbacks, they argue, or building industry regulators campaigning for bungalows.

The ITC is said to be anxious about the imminent judicial review. If it loses, its credibility will suffer greatly at a time when there is a turf war amongst regulatory bodies to see who will survive and flourish in the digital age.

Mr Rogers says that, despite

criticisms that television is dogged by regulatory spaghetti, the ITC or something like it should continue to exist alongside OFTEL and the OFT. He would like to see the demise of the Broadcasting Standards Commission though, and wants the BBC brought under the same regulatory umbrella as commercial companies.

"Television should have a wholly new body," he says, "which is not the ITC. I'm an old man who retires in two and a half years' time – I've no axe to grind."

In that sense, Mr Rogers is battling only to ensure that the ITC distinguishes itself in its final years. It only makes his task harder that these years are throwing up the biggest challenges of the regulator's short history.

Silly season handouts help 'Express' play catch-up

Sales figures show the *Mail's* big lead is narrowing. By Paul McCann

AUGUST IS not the traditional time to run newspaper promotions as evidenced last week when the starting gun of September went up and half of Fleet Street seemed to see Richard Branson's life story as their circulation salvation.

In fact the two newspapers which tried a small amount of marketing and promotional work last month have made healthy returns in the ABC newspaper figures for August.

The *Express* promoted a Millennium scratch card game which helped it increase sales by 28,000 copies more than July. The effect of this is best seen in comparison with the *Daily Mail* which lost over 33,000 copies in August compared with the month before.

The *Express'* deficit to the *Mail* is still mammoth – the *Mail* has double the market share of the tabloid press that the *Express* has – and Rosie Boycott's newspaper is still selling 64,000 copies fewer than it did in August 1997. Nevertheless, a 2.53 per cent growth in sales during one of the worst sales months of the year is still an achievement worth noting.

Unfortunately for the *Express*, the *Mail* is now running its own money give away game and the direction of readers may be reversed during September.

The *Mail's* sales drop helped keep *The Mirror* 50,000 ahead of it, making the late Lord Rothermere's worries about the *Mail* becoming too popular look premature.

The *Mirror* stood virtually still compared with the month before and compared with August 1997 but in a declining popular market standing still is often as good as growth.

David Yelland's *Sun* bucked the trend of previous months and grew faster than *The Mirror* during Au-

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION			
Daily newspapers	July 1998	August 1998	% change
<i>The Mirror</i>	2,375,064	2,377,782	+0.11
<i>Daily Star</i>	557,243	571,200	+2.50
<i>The Sun</i>	3,678,152	3,707,471	+0.80
<i>The Express</i>	1,123,172	1,151,583	+2.53
<i>Daily Mail</i>	2,345,794	2,312,285	-1.43
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	1,063,216	1,064,813	+0.15
<i>Guardian</i>	391,238	380,857	-2.65
<i>Independent</i>	220,968	221,915	+0.43
<i>Times</i>	751,274	739,285	-1.60
Sunday newspapers			
<i>News of the World</i>	4,201,864	4,294,318	+2.20
<i>Sunday Mirror</i>	1,976,934	2,019,928	+2.17
<i>Sunday People</i>	1,726,164	1,775,252	+2.84
<i>Mail on Sunday</i>	2,234,040	2,224,776	-0.41
<i>Express on Sunday</i>	1,027,365	1,072,858	+4.43
<i>Independent on Sunday</i>	250,968	256,826	+2.33
<i>Observer</i>	400,747	397,342	-0.84
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	827,896	842,055	+1.71
<i>Sunday Times</i>	1,297,990	1,322,537	+1.89

gust: it was up by 28,000 copies a day. But its year-on-year figures are still a cause for worry. In August 1997 the title sold 156,000 copies a day more than this August.

Because the *Mail* has put on almost 100,000 copies in the same 12 month period, the popular market is only down by 193,000 year-on-year, but between them the *Daily Star*, *The Sun* and *The Express* have lost a worrying 288,707 copies a day, fully 2.6 per cent of the entire popular newspaper market.

In Scotland the *Daily Record* had a remarkably strong month, increasing by 4.56 per cent month on month. It was partly helped by the earlier start of the Scottish football season but Martin Clarke is earning plaudits for his newspaper which has increased sales every month since May, thereby reversing the usual

summer trend. Industry analysts also expect the *Record* to do better as Scotland approaches devolution because of its deeper-rooted heritage as a Scottish newspaper.

This newspaper had a small burst of television advertising and a promotional tie-in with *The Avengers* film which helped to maintain the title's underlying growth during the weak summer period.

Sales of *The Independent* increased by 0.43 per cent, or just under 1,000 copies a day. This is positively blooming compared with *The Guardian's* loss of over 10,000 during August and *The Times's* loss of 11,000 compared with July.

The *Times* sold 739,285 during August – over 100,000 copies a day fewer than it was selling in January. Even accounting for the summer downturn, the feeling must be that



Boycott: celebrating August sales growth at The Express

the title has extracted all the sales it can from its current price and marketing strategy and needs to spend more of Rupert Murdoch's money if it is to hold readers.

For *The Observer*, a change of editor and a more newsy product came too late to stop it falling below the benchmark figure of 400,000. August notwithstanding, *The Guardian*-owned title was down 13,405 compared with July and 28,000 lower than the year before.

Despite the launch of big gun promotions, book serialisations and television advertising, September could be a sticky month for all broadsheet newspapers. The death of Diana, Princess of Wales boosted all of the quality titles to record September highs. Comparing the coming month with last year is only going to make them all look bad.

THE WORD ON THE STREET

NO MAGAZINE, it seems, is immune to the hope that the *FHM* effect can work for them, too. That can be the only explanation for the highbrow monthly *Prospect* forming a partnership with Vivus, makers of "the more traditional forms of treatment for erectile dysfunction" – presumably this consists of White House Interns, combined with a kind of Meccano set. Together, the upmarket magazine and the uplifting company are offering a £5,000 prize for the best essay on the subject of sex. From the magazine's less than overflowing readership, of policy wonks and think-tanks, it has attracted 300 entries. We must hope that, for these people, the Third Way is as rude as it sounds.

THE RELENTLESS upmarket race of the tabloids knows no bounds. A memo, circulated recently by the *Daily Mail* news editor, demands that all reporters have read the *Financial Times* by the time they get into the office. It is apparently a great source of stories for the paper. That will explain where yesterday's photograph of Scary Spice and her groom came from. Er, well, no – it came from *OK Magazine*.

TABLOID SHOWBUSINESS reporters had to fight back the smiles last week when news reached them that Matthew Freud (pictured), restaurateur and PR to the stars, had been hospitalised with kidney stones after being in pain for a number of weeks. "It's not that we want anything tragic to happen on the operating table," said one high profile showbusiness writer. "But a period of

extended suffering would be nice." It's good to be popular.

THE LONG-standing war between moralists and liberals, to keep filth, violence and other good stuff off of our television screens, saw a battle go to the liberals last week. Sir Peter Rogers, head of the Independent Television Commission, said that, from now on, the ITC is to allow anything that gets a certificate in cinemas straight on to our



television screens. This will dispense with all the battles fought over getting *Reservoir Dogs* on to the small screen without upsetting certain moralising newspapers and rent-a-quote MPs.

ELSEWHERE AT Associated Newspapers, close personal friends of Jonathan Harmsworth, the new Lord Rothermere, had a whole week of thinking that they, like he, were in a job for life. Then the unthinkable happened. Adam Edwards, editor of the *Evening Standard* ES magazine, and a very close personal friend of the new viscount, was sacked.

Another close friend tells The Street: "I've just had my first sleepless night in years." Clearly, Lord Rothermere will be no protector of his buddies. How close he is to Veronica Wadley, features executive of the *Daily Mail*, is unknown, but she is tipped by insiders to become the next editor of the *Mail on Sunday's* Night & Day magazine.

THE DEPARTURE of Michael Foster from his job as Ginger Television's chief executive hints of troubled times ahead at the brash young media group. Well, troubled, at least, for whoever inherits Foster's role of liaising with Alan Patricoff, the man who runs Ginger's financial backers, Apex Partners. Effectively, Patricoff is the man with whom the buck really stops if things ever start to wobble at Virgin Radio. Ginger's finance director Andy Mullett is favourite for the job.

HAVING COST millionaires like Robert Maxwell and the Barclay Brothers large chunks of their fortune it looks like it is the turn of Michael Bloomberg to lose cash on the newspaper for Europe that no one wants to read. Bloomberg's financial information services group is expected to buy a chunk of *The European* this Thursday. The newspaper is starting to resemble the kind of progressive taxation policies long abandoned on these isles. As a way of making the rich poorer it may lack the redistribution element of Socialism, but hey, as long as it makes them poorer that's the main thing.

Spice in 1998

Sleazy, tasteless and proud of it



The headlines they said could never be written: a selection of the front page scoops that have helped the 'Sunday Sport' keep circulation and profits rising

The Daily and Sunday Sport's blend of sex and schoolboy humour is a success story of tackiness over taste. By John-Paul Flintoff

They don't teach this on journalism courses. Nathan Jones, 19, was offered a job on the staff of a national newspaper after organising an orgy involving a page three girl and 20 of the paper's readers. Other unusual tasks for Jones included wrestling naked with a 20-stone lesbian, eating live maggots and lighting "a firework sticking out of a circus performer's bum".

At least, that's what Tony Livesey says in his book, *Babes, Boozes, Orgies and Aliens*, published to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the *Daily Sport*. But you shouldn't necessarily believe it because the *Sunday Sport* is a newspaper of which Livesey is editor and managing director – are famous for reporting that World War Two bombers were found on the moon and that aliens turned a British boy into a fish finger.

Like the papers themselves, the book looks tacky. Even Livesey's FR hides it when she enters Café F10 on St Martin's Lane – and she's probably wise to do so, because the café's female manager describes his paper as a "disgusting rag". But Livesey, 34, is unfazed. He's coped with

worse, appearing on *Have I Got News For You?*, *Newsnight*, and Channel 4's *Cutting Edge*. "Every-one talks about that programme," he says. "We had a woman with giant breasts tramping in the office." Channel 5 invited him to make a programme himself, about strange people round Britain. He turned it down.

Livesey became editor of *Sunday Sport* in 1988 after six years on the paper, and editor in chief of the group two years ago. He started in journalism on the *Nelson Leader* in Lancashire. After local press he went to work on *Gulf News* in the Middle East. He returned aged 22 and applied for a job as a sports reporter on the *Sunday Sport*. He claims he was given the job to replace a sports reporter fired for refusing to write that Elvis had been spotted at a football match. He claims to have done every job on the paper and last month became managing director of *Sunday Sport*.

Livesey is the man who steered the *Sport* into profit after the regular wiped £5m off its ad revenue by banning 1988 sex lines. The *Sport* has never attracted mainstream advertisers – with the peculiar exception

of IBM – but unlike others, has managed to survive without them. And it's relied largely on word-of-mouth for readers: the IBA wouldn't allow TV advertising at the paper's launch.

In his first year as editor, Livesey closed the London office (the headquarters are in Manchester), and boosted sales by 100,000 a week, a rise of 33 per cent. Since then – distasteful though it may be – the paper has become rather a success. Valued at £150m, it sells 80 million copies a year. Profits this year were £9m, on a turnover of just £23m. Publisher David Sullivan is the 50th richest man in Britain, worth £350m; and the *Sport* itself can claim to have influenced a whole generation of new titles: *Louise*, *Mix*, and *FM*.

What first took the *Sunday Sport* into profitable sales, in 1987, was the establishment of a "Big Breast Unit", which masterminded topless shots of an 18-year-old – apparently called Tina Small – whose chest measured 84 inches. She was succeeded by a traffic warden who "broke the legendary 100-inch barrier".

Inevitably, the paper has attracted much criticism from "feminists", "bleeding-heart liberals" and "gut-

less, politically correct ponces". In the book, Livesey pours contempt on such critics: "Perhaps these short-sighted people would be happier for page-three girls to abandon careers that can earn them up to £1,000 a day and sell cigarettes instead?"

As arguments go, this is hardly

'Would feminists be happier if Page Three girls gave up £1,000-a-day careers to sell cigarettes instead?'

watertight, but Livesey takes up the theme again over a plate of fried potato skins: "Feminists say we're exploiting women. Fifty per cent of the models earn more than me. Feminists are more sexist than me. They have fought for freedom, women doing what they want. What's wrong with looking at breasts?"

Perhaps I'm not the best person

to ask. What does Livesey's female FR think? "I've no problem with what he says," she states. "I have been topless on holiday – but I have absolutely no intention of going topless here!"

To which Livesey replies: "And I respect you for that – but you have the choice." (Later on, Livesey hands me his mobile to speak to one of his colleagues, Millfield-educated Nick Cracknell, who rather lets the side down by cowering: "I used to be a journalist, but now I'm a pornographer.")

Suppose they're right. Suppose topless pics really aren't harmful. But what about the *Sport*'s nastier stuff?

One of Livesey's predecessors, Drew Robertson, once wrote a column headed "Bollocks to the Press Council", after being criticised for using the words "sicks Chinks" in a piece about eating dogs in China. This was too much even for the *Sport*: Robertson was sacked.

The comedian Jo Brand once dared to criticise the paper and incurred an extraordinarily unkind revenge: Livesey dreamed up a competition based on the earlier "Kill Saddam and win a Metro". Readers were told: "We'll give you a grand if you've been down on Jo Brand."

"I have gone too far," Livesey concedes. One of his own ideas was to send a get-well message, concealed in a sausage, to 'Allo 'Allo actor Gordon Kaye, as he lay in hospital recovering from a terrible accident. This, says Livesey, instinctively reaching for superlatives, was "the greatest invasion of privacy in journalism", but it's clear he regrets the incident. "Lessons were learned. We are never doing that again. And after Diana (died), we never entered the auction for pictures."

What's more, he claims this week to have turned down topless pictures of Cherie Booth, and notified Downing Street. ("That's disgusting, she's a mother of two [sic].") Not that he's interested in sucking up to Blair: "I'm not a political animal, I'd rather that businessmen ran the country." Take note: businessmen, not journalists. As Livesey sees it, journalists should stick to entertainment.

Auberon Waugh, who has written approvingly about the *Sport*, wins his respect: "At first glance he's a pompous old tosser, but if you read what he says, he speaks a lot of sense." Kelvin MacKenzie? "An entertainer." John Pilger? "Bored me

to tears." *The Mirror* comes in for similar criticism. "It's depressing. There's a new game in our office: how many times can *The Mirror* mention death in one issue?"

So is the *Sport* just a comic? "We have the news," he asserts. "You'll find Tony Adams and Bill Clinton. There is less news in the *Daily Mail* than in my paper. [The *Mail*'] all comment, opinions."

But news in the *Sport* could hardly be in-depth, because Livesey has only nine journalists. The founding editor, the late Mike Gabbert – a former deputy editor of the *News of the World* who claimed to have invented the word "bonk" – issued reporters with the following stern injunction: "No effing stories longer than 200 words."

But former *Sport* hacks now occupy important positions on major red-top tabloids, says Livesey. "The joke is that we are pilloried by many and scoffed at, but we are providing – if not the backbone of the industry – then at least its right arm."

'Babes, Boozes, Orgies and Aliens' is published by Virgin on 17 September, at £5.99

A quiet revolution in Wapping

The Sunday Times has changed. But not so as you'd notice. How typical of its mystery editor. By Peter Cole

BY ITS own standards *The Sunday Times* made a few radical changes last Sunday. For the first time in very many years it put its comment and opinion back in the main news section, and altered the *News Review*, the former home of this content, to become a more exclusively commentary and features section. To other newspapers, particularly *Sunday* broadsheets, it was a very small bang indeed, a tinker.

Coincidentally, the monthly circulation figures were published, recording *The Sunday Times*'s highest August sale for nearly 20 years, and showing the paper's share of the "quality" Sunday market at 47 per cent. The two events are closely related. While rival titles relaunch, repackaging, sign new writers and change their editors, the market leader does very little. The rivals would be happy to trade innovation for that sort of success.

The *Sunday Times*'s announcement of its "changes" was a modest front page column in very small print. None of your "new, improved *Sunday Times*", just an underplayed mention of the sales figures, a list of "top writers", and the welcoming of "a new clutch of top writers". Three to be precise, of which two – Robert Harris and Zoe Heller – are familiar names to *Sunday Times* readers, simply making a return or appearing in a new spot. The third was Melanie Phillips, late of *The Guardian* and *The Observer*.

The *Sunday Times* is thus the prime national newspaper example of the old adage "if it works don't fix it". It remains the newspaper created by the former editor, Andrew Neil – enormous, multi-sectioned, well organised, conservative in design and opinion, complex in content.

Neil, impressed by most things American, imported the idea of a Sunday package rather than a Sunday newspaper, and sections proliferated during his era. He said he offered the "supermarket" approach: you could tour the newspa-



Andrew Neil: imported Sunday package from America

per's sections, stopping to "buy" when something of interest caught your eye.

It was, and is, one paper for many markets. *News Review* was the "intellectual heart" of the newspaper for the politically-inclined and thinking readers. Business, sport, arts and travel all had their own sections, some spawning other sections, such as *Money* for personal finance. And then there are the magazines. The formula has been

much imitated, on Saturdays as well as Sundays.

The recipe – which is probably why it evokes so much snobbery among journalists who work elsewhere – is to present a mid-market package in broadsheet clothing, with a dollop of broadsheet values around the political and business areas. Elsewhere it is aspirational, puts the word "style" under the cosh, defines its own "society" and vigorously reflects the views of conservative middle Britain.

It works, to the tune of over 1.3m copies a week. And while some rivals draw attention to the subsidised push into Scotland and Ireland as an explanation for the stubborn re-

fusal of the circulation to fall, the fact is that English readers visiting the newspaper on a Sunday morning usually exchange £1 for a copy. This is not an area where other Sunday broadsheet titles can throw stones without embarrassment.

Given this attitude to change, of keeping it evolutionary verging on imperceptible (it is usually driven by production factors – the challenge of printing so much on presses used by other titles), there is perhaps one interesting aspect of what happened on Sunday. By putting the editorial and op-ed pages into the main news section, *The Sunday Times* is moving slightly away from the "supermarket" formula.

By presenting these pieces which define where the paper stands in the traditional place, the main news section, and out of the ghetto, it is subtly bending the paper together.

This then is the first significant editorial content change from Andrew Neil's successor, John Witherow. Neil was a hard act to follow; he had the highest profile of any national newspaper editor, was forever appearing on radio and TV, was a man of considerable intellect with rare gifts of self-promotion and a pathological distaste for what he described as "the establishment". Although *The Sunday Times* is self-evidently bigger than anyone who edits it, that did not seem to be the case when Neil was in charge.

Witherow is very different. More contained, less flamboyant, less outrageous, more "English". Those who like to criticise *The Sunday Times* – almost all journalists who do not work for a Murdoch title – like to describe him as Fleet Street's least known editor. But is that really fair, or more importantly, so what?

We have moved out of the era of the celebrity editor. Ask the person in the street to name the editors of any national newspaper, and there would be very few identified.

When Rupert Murdoch tired of

celebrity editors – Andrew Neil and Kelvin MacKenzie at *The Sun* – he turned to editors he thought would simply do a good job for him. He preferred them to make money rather than waves. But this is true not only of Murdoch's newspapers.

Editors become celebrities if they appear on radio and television regularly, if they front the repercussions of major stories – cash for questions, for example, if their paper transgresses – carrying photographs of Princess Diana in a gym, or if they themselves are the centre of a salacious story – Neil, Donald Trefford, Pamela Bordes. They are seldom celebrities if they get on with editing.

Neil reports in his autobiography that Murdoch worried that Witherow was "not driven enough", and "too much of a knee-jerk Tory". Both concerns were clearly overcome, and Witherow was appointed. In Murdoch's terms he has delivered.

News International newspapers are not crusades, their journalists not driven by a mission. They refer to the Wapping headquarters not as the office but the plant.

Papers like *The Sunday Times* are triumphs of production, marketing and distribution. They are immensely efficient. Editing such a multi-headed hydra demands as many qualities of organisation and management as flair and creativity.

The Sunday Times, like other Murdoch titles, is more popular in the market place than the media village. Its journalists often feel unloved, and its work regime is often one of authoritarianism and sometimes fear.

Witherow has the plant's respect, and the main reason for that is that he runs a successful product. Carping from the chattering journalistic classes is unlikely to bother him.

Peter Cole is professor of journalism at the University of Central Lancashire

X marks the spot where music died

It started as London's only alternative radio station. But has XFM finally sold its soul? By Richard Cook

THE LAST TIME Bob Geldof rode in to rescue an apparently unfashionable cause, the issue seemed far more straightforward. But today, the man recently dubbed by the *NME* as "the worst DJ in Britain" is no longer primarily the passionate activist: he's a businessman who has lent his name and record collection to the rebirth of London's formerly alternative radio station, XFM.

He is actually supervising, his detractors say, the transformation of a station, set up to break interesting new music, into a bland corporate satellite of the Capital Radio Group. Worse, Geldof's production company, Planet 24, is consulting on the entire new sound of the station, a new sound that certainly hasn't found favour with many of the station's hard core listener base. They have set up a protest website, sought meetings with Capital's programming director, Richard Park, and orchestrated a campaign of letter writing to Parliament and the media to protest at what has happened to their station. But XFM wasn't supposed to be like this. This isn't what anyone expected.

After six years of struggle, and no fewer than four unsuccessful licence applications, the alternative radio station XFM finally started broadcasting on 1 September last year. It had been a long hard road for the fledgling station, but at least it had been a journey sustained by die hard supporters, like the Cure's Robert Smith, and by the passionate belief of its energetic founder, Chris Parry.

The fact that he let the station operate on a soft rent out of a house he owned in London's Charlotte Street had also helped. But so too had the dedication of a staff comprised largely of music-obsessed volunteers, of part timers and of the poorly paid. Their dream was simply that their brand of indie music would ride to the rescue of a city's increasingly bored radio-listening youth. A youth that had become

progressively more enervated by the seemingly identical brand of adult orientated rock that was being served up by the heavy hitters of the London music scene – the likes of Capital, Heart FM, and Virgin.

XFM was an independent, battling in a cut-throat London radio market that had become a playground of big business. Its DJs, with the exception of its star daytime presenter, Gary Crowley, were not well known. Sometimes, their broadcast

techniques revealed a lack of polish, but their commitment was real enough. XFM was not exaggerating when it claimed it was "London's only Alternative". And yet, six months after its launch, it was hard to see quite why it had bothered.

When its first listening figures were released – around Christmas time – they revealed that just 239,000 people were tuning in to XFM every week. A conservative first target of 500,000 listeners had been Parry's aim. It was national grief over the death of Diana, XFM claimed, which was largely responsible.

Unfortunately, three months later, the real picture became a lot clearer. By then, just 219,000 people

were tuning in every week. That's considerably fewer than listened to the capital's now-defunct RTL Country station, an ill-fated Country & Western format. Something had to be done.

And on 1 May this year, something was. Capital Radio had just lost out to Chris Evans in the battle for Virgin Radio. But it promptly paid £15 million for a 90.1 per cent controlling stake in XFM. Capital initially changed little of the station's output and, by the time the next set of audience figures were produced in June, it seemed as if the alliance had already begun to weave its magic. A figure of 383,000 still seemed a long way off the 500,000 launch target, but the trend was in the right direction.

And then Capital decided to act. For a while, at the beginning of August, the station simply played wall-to-wall records. Then, when the DJs returned on 24 August, they weren't the same DJs. The records they played weren't the same. They were more poppy, less alternative. XFM, the detractors said, had really sold out. "Every now and then, there is the glimmer of what it once was – Sparklehorse, Puffy Barry, Six By Seven," reports Jez Simmonds, one of the more moderate contributors to the web pages started by the disillusioned former fans.

More often is the aversive reminder of what has replaced it: Republics, the Beautiful South, Lennox bloody Kravitz. Star presenter, Gary Crowley had led the DJ exodus. In came Bob Geldof and, in the crucial position of programme controller, came Des Shore, who works for Geldof at Planet 24.

The Radio Authority says it is monitoring the output to make sure it complies with XFM's original promise of performance. In the meantime, nurtured on a new diet of hands like U2, Bob Dylan and Van Morrison, the protests of the indie aficionados will just get louder: and XFM's listenership, Capital promises, will just get bigger.

New XFM DJ, Bob Geldof, is upsetting the die-hard fans

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X

the cells someone in the family has been making to Aberdeen. Any other citizen would have unearthed the culprit by the end of the episode, not a resolution would suggest that Jim has a plot. And, unlike in other comedies, which may feignically to grab your attention, these characters need no introduction, partly because there's not much to introduce. They occupy a continuous present in which Anthony is in everyone else's "groovy dogpody Jim is just 'gas a crab's arse'," Dingle obsesses about her eye-eyetrance and rumm Barbara has everyone else wait for her "lad for tea. There's no situation, only sitting. Deaths may be getting married in six weeks (presumably in

favorite example found Jim's describing Chris' Ryan (and named, but you heard the 72 "fired" theme used) as having "giggy holidays".

This neatly segues into "Dinosaurs" (BBC1) on the ginger-haired Alan McCabe, the big dog on the manager. Oats was too long, especially with no contribution from Noel Gallagher, who sent along this week to be rude about Charlie Bick (dear at Number 10, McCabe once almost died from the rumm excesses, and has the rumm machine to prove it, but celebrat confessions of delinquency after turning into the new owner, on the full on, and to no judges, as the story's always the same.


Thomas Sandberg is away

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2.00 Business Briefs (8839/4, 9.00) Breakfast, 9.40
Games (538/9, 9.00) Kivoy (5) 7600 Breakfast, 9.40
Breakers (5) (586/728), 10.00 *Style Challenge* (5) (5855/67), 10.30 *Daily Live* (5) (4422/22), 10.45 *News*: Regional News: Weather (7) (783/75), 11.00
Commonwealth Games Grandstand (5) (7) (344/89), 1.00 News: Weather (7) (540/5), 1.30 Regional News: Weather (888/78), 1.40 Nightboots (5) (7) (870/78), 2.00 Breakers (5) (888/89/7), 2.30

2.25 Commonwealth Games Grandstand, Hockey and swimming (7) (718/89/8).

3.25 Children's BBC, The Greysaurus Gang (9) (5) (584/87/8), 3.30 Playdays (5) (7) (784/83/8), 3.50 *Cricket* (5) (7) (728/85/4), 4.40 *Gracie Boy* (9) (5) (581/89), 4.55 *Round the Twist* (9) (7) (324/15), 5.00 *Newsworld* (7) (7) (845/45/7), 5.40 *Byker Grove* (9) (5) (7) (878/84/7).

5.30 Neighbours, Trade manages to pull through with Phil's help, apparently (5) (7) (570/7).

6.00 News Weather (7) (728).

6.30 Regional News, And weather (7) (888).

7.00 Holiday Heaven, Calabritas return to their favourite holiday destinations, its the south of France for model Caprice and North Yorkshire for Keith Barron (5) (84/7).

7.30 Eastenders, Ricky discovers that you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink, it says there. I hope they are not referring to Bianca (5) (7) (575).

8.00 UEFA Cup - First Round: Blackburn Rovers vs Olympique Lyonnais, Desmond Lynn introduces live coverage from Evoud Park of the UEFA Cup clash between Blackburn Rovers and the fairy medicine French side (they finished sixth last season and, apart from the Cameroon midfielder, Joseph-Desire Job, had no French 88 state). However, meanwhile, make their first boy no Europe since their disastrous Champions League campaign three years ago. With studio analysis from Alan Hansen and Martin O'Neill and commentary from John Motson and Mark Lawrenson. Kick-off is at 8.00pm (7) (850/82).

8.30 The Simpsons, Homer's Night Out, Homer is photographed with an exotic dancer (9) (5) (7) (874/22).

8.35 Commonwealth Games Grandstand, Sue Barker introduces the best action from day five of the Commonwealth Games from Kuala Lumpur. Hockey makes its debut in the year's Games as England's men's team take on host-nation Malaysia. Plus the aquatics semi-finals and more swimming final, including the women's 400m breaststroke and the men's 400m freestyle (5) (7) (873/40/7).

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